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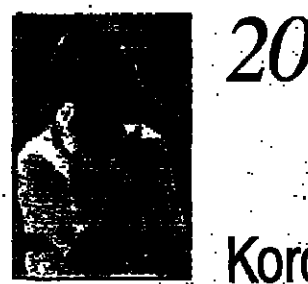
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Source: PM asked Clinton to postpone decision on Pollard

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Despite earlier Israeli pressure on US President Bill Clinton to free the case of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has now asked Clinton to put off making his decision until the impeachment hearings are over, a source said yesterday.

Following the Wye summit, Clinton had assured Netanyahu that he would review all the material - from both advocates and opponents of Pollard's release - at this time. At the time it was not clear that the Senate impeachment hearings would be underway now. Netanyahu felt that it would not be polite to put pressure on the US president to decide when he is under duress, the source said.

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky yesterday denied that the prime minister had requested such a deferral. "The opposite is true," he said. "The prime minister is most grateful that President Clinton has kept his promise to review the possibility of an early release for Pollard."

Meanwhile, advocates of Pollard's release have not yet submitted their arguments to Clinton, although the US defense establishment already has recommended that the spy continue to serve his full term - life imprisonment. An additional reason for Clinton's delaying the review decision is a pending request for a meeting with him lodged by three Jewish leaders - World Jewish Congress head Edgar Bronfman, Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz and Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel - who wish to put Pollard's case before the president.

When the White House reportedly suggested that the three meet instead with Attorney-General Janet Reno - who also is due to make recommendations in the Pollard case - Bronfman was unusually piqued, the source said, and insisted on an invitation from Clinton. No date has yet been set for such a meeting. Asked yesterday whether he had submitted arguments in Pollard's favor to the White House, Pollard's lawyer Larry Dub confirmed that he had not. "There is no one to submit them to," he said. "We have not received any response to my December 4 letter to President Clinton or to my two subsequent letters to [White House legal counsel] Charles Ruff."

He said there was still no willingness on the part of the US to explain what "information" Pollard had passed on to Israel and what evidence there was against him. Dub yesterday denied again that any encryption codes had been passed by his client to Israel. "Pollard did not have access to such encryption data," Dub said. "Frequency signals manuals with-

out encryption codes are useless." In a letter last week to Ruff, Dub said he had pointed out that on December 18, 1998, "an ex-NSA senior cryptologic traffic analyst, David Sheldon Boone, pleaded guilty in US District court in Alexandria, Va., to having provided the Soviets with, among other things, ... a manual listing all US reconnaissance programs and signal collection systems, on or about the time that my client was sentenced."

Dub said that this "calls into question the motive of those 'government officials' who continue to lay the blame for this crime on Jonathan Pollard."

President Ezer Weizman yesterday revealed that he had written to Clinton two years ago to request clemency for Pollard. Weizman said that the initiative had come from Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who was minister at the Israeli Embassy in Washington when the Pollards were arrested and sought asylum there.

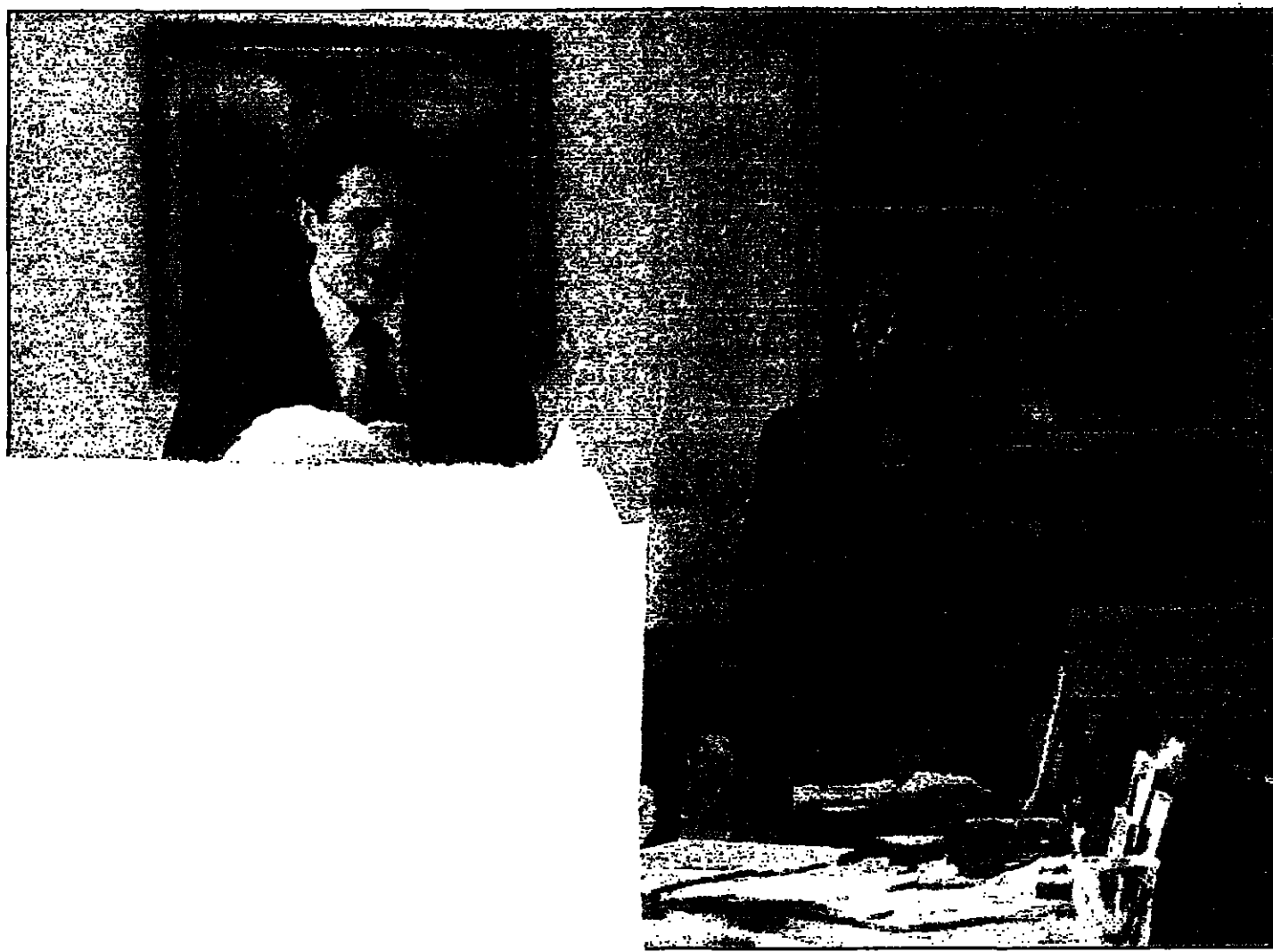
Weizman was speaking to reporters during a visit of British parliament members of the Conservative Friends of Israel group.

Vilna'i to join Labor

DC pollster's office broken into again

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Maj.-Gen. (res.) Matan Vilna'i will formally join the Labor Party this morning and will seek a place on its Knesset list by running in the 1999 elections.



Speechwriter Michael Waldman and Deputy Chief of Staff Mara (AP)

Clinton's defense begins

Slams "witches' brew of charges"

By HILLEL KUTTNER
and news agencies

WASHINGTON - White House Counsel Charles Ruff opened President Bill Clinton's impeachment defense yesterday by telling the Senate the president is innocent of the "witches' brew of charges" brought by House prosecutors. "He must not be removed from office," Ruff declared.

Ruff, an imposing figure in Washington legal circles for two decades, sharply attacked the conclusions and motives of the 13 House prosecutors, who laid out their evidence last week. He called their effort "nothing more than a rush to judgment."

Not only was official Washington captivated by a trial with just one precedent in the nation's history, but the oddity was heightened yesterday

by the preparations under way, across the Capitol, in the House of Representatives chamber, for the president to deliver his annual State of the Union address at 9 p.m.

"William Jefferson Clinton is not guilty of the charges that have been proffered against him," were the first words uttered by Ruff in opening Clinton's defense, after 14 hours of prosecution arguments. "He did not commit perjury, he did not obstruct justice. He must not be removed from office."

Conceding that he felt "the weight of the moment" and would "not be able to match the eloquence" of the prosecution managers, Ruff said: "We will defend the president on the facts, on the law, and on the constitutional principles that guide these deliberations."

See CLINTON, Page 2

Huge welcome for Hussein in Amman

By BEN LYNFIELD

AMMAN - Jordan's King Hussein returned home yesterday after a six-month absence and close brush with death to a country that seemed worried about its future even as it welcomed him with song, dance and celebration. As he waved from the cockpit and then stepped off the Boeing 737 he piloted from London to Amman's Marka Airport, the king seemed markedly healthier than he had appeared during the Wye summit in October.

But his face also looked worn by his apparently successful bout with cancer, for which he received chemotherapy treatments.

Wearing the red-checkered keffiyeh he uses when meeting his countrymen, the king immediately bowed in prayer on the tarmac carpet and was then greeted by the royal family, his cabinet, tribal leaders, much of the country's political elite, and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who kissed him on the forehead.

Asked at the airport what issues he intends to now address, Hussein was vague: "There is a lot to be done. It is a continuous struggle, as it has been for 40 plus years now, 47 years."

"Every now and then we have to review, to see what needs to be done to consolidate the country, to make people feel more comfortable and confident in the future," he said.

The king added that during his absence "the government did a wonderful job and of course, I really appreciate everything my deputy did," referring to Crown Prince Hassan, who managed day-to-day affairs during his absence.

The king then set out with Queen Noor on a motorcade through

Amman, waving through the freezing rain to crowds of loyalists who showed their support and in exchange gained reassurance that their monarch is back at the helm.

Amman's fourth circle, a major downtown intersection, had the look of a rain-drenched football game as youths raced after the king's Mercedes, shouting to him.

For an unfortunate camel trucked to the scene, the sighting of the king spelled near-instant death, as Beduin stalwarts of the monarchy slaughtered the animal on the sidewalk. The reason for this action, they explained, was that the camel constituted a sacrifice to God for saving the life of the king. Its meat was to be donated later to the poor, they added.

Elsewhere in Amman, youths sang tributes to the king from flag-adorned pickup trucks and chanted "With blood and spirit, we will redeem you Hussein."

"Psychologically, this gives people a feeling of security," said Maamoun Ajarma, a teacher, after the king's vehicle passed by. "The king's return will provide economic and political stability."

But political analysts, and some private citizens speaking off the record, do not evince a sense of optimism. Instead, say the analysts, Jordan is facing new uncertainty prompted by reports - not officially refuted - that the king intends to revise succession procedures, and from an economic malaise that shows no sign of reversal.

The news agency reports say that moves are underfoot to strip Hassan of his 35-year title as king's successor in favor of one of the king's sons, Prince Abdullah or Prince Hamza.

It was hard to immediately gauge their veracity, given the reticence of Jordanians to speak about the



Jordan's King Hussein prays yesterday after landing at Amman's Marka Military Base. (AP)

sensitive subject.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and other top officials have declined to comment on the matter, while the palace issued a denial only of a January 8 report in *al-Wakeel al-Arabi* magazine that the US had been involved in discussions with Jordan about the succession.

Radwan Abdallah, a political scientist, said concern is running high over a possible change in Hassan's role.

"Jordanians are concerned about the succession, and this is on everyone's mind," he said. "People are apprehensive about the rumors they are hearing. They do not want any change in the status quo that would lead to cleavages."

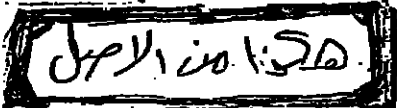
Hassan has for years been intimately involved in Jordanian economic and foreign policy, including relations with Israel. Of the

king's sons, Abdallah, 36, is a career army officer who has risen to the rank of general, while Hamza is 18 and very much an unknown quantity.

Analysts did not rule out the possibility that during the next few days the king would make public comments voicing support for Hassan, but said that with each passing day without such support the sense of a change would grow stronger.

Abdallah, the political scientist, said the economy will need the king's immediate attention. It is still reeling from the cut-off of Gulf funds that were available before the 1991 war and the curtailment of remittance payments after workers were forced to leave Gulf countries.

Meanwhile, the large Jordanian public sector has not been trimmed, he said.



around the corner from Barak adviser Stanley Greenberg's, was far from reluctant to accuse Barak's opponents of involvement with the crime.

"It's obviously political opponents of Barak's trying to see to it to preserve their political standing," he said. "To me there is no other explanation... Even the Watergate wasn't broken into twice."

Sources said the only materials disturbed were those relating to the election and Barak.

"We fully trust the FBI to do its job," Barak spokeswoman Aliza Goren said. "We aren't afraid of anything. Any paper that might have been stolen from their office won't change the fact that Netanyahu and his government have ended their term and will lose the elections, and there must be some elements that are afraid of the polls."

See VILNA'I, Page 2



Ohana lawyer: Most material was fake

By LIAT COLLINS

Yehiam Ohana's lawyer Yossi Livneh said last night that most of the material forwarded to the attorney-general concerning Ohana's complaint that he was the victim of a police frame-up was forged.

Livneh said Ohana denies having personally forged the material and blamed Rahel Lev, the researcher who helped him obtain the documents. He said Ohana was "disappointed and hurt" by Lev.

Lev reportedly did not admit forgery, but did not offer police officer explanations. Her lawyer Avi Odiz said the truth about Ohana would be exposed.

Livneh said Ohana had fallen victim to Lev, who allegedly presented herself as an investigator looking into his complaints for the Justice Ministry's police investigation department.

Police said Ohana probably had

a part in the fabrication and knew of it, but convinced his friends of their authenticity. The original case was 17 years ago and Ohana served a two-year sentence on drug charges. The request for a retrial is still being examined, although it appears weaker.

"I hope that everyone will see how this has hurt the Supreme Court, and thereby our whole justice system - and the police's operational ability as well," Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk said yesterday. "That's why this case is our top priority."

Wilk added that police are investigating who was involved in creating the false documents.

"Was it based on the obsessive need to overturn one ruling, or were there others behind it?" he said.

Meanwhile Supreme Court judge Theodor Orr got back to work yesterday, a day after allowing the publication of his name as the judge Ohana claimed was

being blackmailed by policemen who said he had raped a teenage girl.

Orr rejected the charges as "ludicrous." The forgeries concerning letters he allegedly wrote were discovered to be obvious fakes.

Colleagues also dismissed the allegations Ohana raised against Orr as "absurd."

Communications Minister Limor Livnat told reporters yesterday she feared Ohana and those who helped him "had tried to obstruct justice and pervert the legal system which lies at the heart of democracy."

Ohana's remand was extended Monday by a week. Ironically, his brother Shmuel was arrested Monday for possessing marijuana. The drugs were found during a search by National Fraud Squad detectives at the Tiberias hotel owned by the family. He was released on bail.

Amy Klein contributed to this report.

Sharon: Russia has role to play in promoting Mideast peace

By DANNA HARMAN and news agencies

The government wants to take advantage of what it perceives as Russia's great influence in the Middle East to promote peace in the region. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said upon arriving in Moscow yesterday.

"Russia is a superpower and despite it having a number of problems we recognize... its colossal possibilities," said Sharon, according to the Interfax news agency.

Sharon, in Moscow for a working visit, said he hopes Russia will agree that greater guarantees of "security and peace for Israel" are a necessary component of peace talks. Interfax said.

"We see the returning influence

of Russia, in the Middle East in particular, and it is absolutely evident to us that this influence will grow," he said at a brief press conference after getting off the plane.

Sharon further asked that the Russian government use its influence on the Palestinians to refrain from declaring unilateral statehood and stressed that such a declaration would have serious consequences.

He also warned that Russia's economic ties with Iran and Iraq could pose a threat to Israel, especially if they help either Arab country gain weapons technology. Russia has denied that it is providing weapons material or expertise to Iran or Iraq.

Sharon also expressed alarm over recent antisemitic statements by Russian lawmakers.

"As a Jew, I am worried by the security of Jews in Russia in light of the statements," Sharon told Gennady Seleznyov, speaker of the lower house of Russia's parliament, Interfax reported.

Sharon said he would try to strengthen cooperation with Russia "in all spheres" during his visit, Interfax reported.

Also yesterday, Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh arrived in Moscow. She will discuss preparations for a visit by Sweden's prime minister scheduled for late April, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

Today, Sharon is scheduled to meet with Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gerasimov, and the mayor of Moscow, Sharon is expected to return home on Friday.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (left) shares a joke yesterday with visiting Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern at a joint press conference at the Prime Minister's Office. (Brian Henner)

Irish PM: Many similarities between here and home

By DANNA HARMAN and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said after meeting with his Irish counterpart yesterday that May elections should not impede advancement in the peace process if the Palestinians fulfill their commitments.

"We want to move forward and we shall move forward the minute those obligations are carried out, with elections or without elections," Netanyahu said in welcoming Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to Jerusalem. "This is a commitment that we have made and that we shall keep."

Netanyahu asked Ahern, who is scheduled to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat today, to urge the Palestinians to implement their commitments in the Wye agreement.

Ahern said he could see many similarities between the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the negotiations that led to an accord for Northern Ireland last April.

"I understand more than most that it is hard to stick to deadlines and to see everything through," Ahern told Netanyahu at the start of his two-day visit. Ahern said both the Irish and the Jews have "suffered discrimination and persecution." The two leaders discussed Mideast peace, Israel's military presence in south Lebanon, and bilateral ties.

Ahern also said that learning the fate of an Irish peacekeeper missing since 1981 is important for the Irish government and the soldier's family.

Pvt. Kevin Joyce disappeared on April 27, 1981, after a gun battle between Irish troops and Palestinian guerrillas near the village of

Jouaya, about 16 km north of the Israeli border. Two other Irish soldiers with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon were killed in the clash. There has been no information about Joyce since.

Ahern, who is also to visit the Gaza Strip later in the week, is the first Irish prime minister to make an official visit to Israel.

In a statement put out by Netanyahu's office, the prime minister said he and Ahern had agreed on the importance of strengthening bilateral relations, especially trade ties and cooperation in research and development.

At Netanyahu's request, Ireland will support Israel's joining the European Union's new R&D program, said the statement. This would make it possible for Israeli companies to join European development programs.

Gush settlers block road in security protest

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF yesterday closed a portion of the coastal road in the Gaza Strip for several hours, after settlers blocked traffic to demonstrate their renewed opposition to Palestinian vehicles using the thoroughfare.

Settlers reported that Palestinians responded by briefly jamming the main Gush Katif intersection with some 30 vehicles.

Thus collapsed Monday's compromise agreement between OC Southern Command

Maj.-Gen. Yom-Tov Samiya and Aharon Tzur, head of the Gaza Coast Regional Council, allowing small numbers of Palestinian vehicles to use the road after undergoing stringent security checks. The settlers claim that on Monday night several Palestinian vehicles were allowed through without security checks, completely undermining their faith in the agreement.

Tzur said residents of Gush Katif demand that the IDF step up and maintain security checks in order to enhance their safety. A delegation of women and children of the newly

formed Many Mothers (*Harbei Imaot*) association from Gush Katif demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office yesterday afternoon, and demanded the prime minister heed the settlers' demands for satisfactory security measures.

Meanwhile, on the road leading to the West Bank settlement of Eilon Moreh, an Israeli vehicle was the target of a firebomb attack. The IDF Spokesman said no one was injured, although the car was lightly damaged. IDF troops searched the area for perpetrators.

Conversion bill imbroglio delays budget vote

By NINA GILBERT and JESSICA STENBERG

The nation will be without a 1999 budget even longer than anticipated, after a bill to block Reform and Conservative representatives from religious councils was pulled from the Knesset agenda yesterday.

Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) has made the passage of the bill a condition for advancing the budget and the 47-clause economic arrangements bill to the House for second and third readings.

The government-sponsored bill, which would require representatives to pledge an oath to the Chief

Rabbinat, was due to have been debated yesterday and voted on either today or Monday. However, MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz), a member of the Knesset Law Committee, filed an objection, noting that last week the committee voted against approving the bill for final readings, and thus it could not be submitted in that form. Today the House Committee is to decide how the bill can be submitted.

Ravitz said yesterday he would renew the arrangements bill negotiations only after the Knesset approves the final reading of the religious councils bill. "It's a procedural entanglement," said Ravitz. However, tying the budget to reli-

gious affairs is a serious transgression, said Ophir Paz-Pines (Labor), a freshman legislator. "It's blackmail and I'm against linking them." All the other MKs make tenuous connections between the budget and their issues, said Ravitz, and they should stop "playing the innocent" in this situation, he said.

Coalition whip Michael Kleiner (Geshet) said he expects to vote on the long-delayed state budget next Monday. "This game of [coalition] budget cuts and additions before or after the vote is just semantics," Kleiner told *The Jerusalem Post*. "But anyone who thinks we can run a government without a real budget until May

doesn't understand economics."

Provisional budgets are only good for emergency situations and could cause damage to long-term projects in the defense and infrastructure sectors, said Kleiner.

Haim Shapiro adds: Rabbi Andy Sacks of the Conservative Movement said it is clear that in the conversion issue the religious establishment is simply looking for a way to postpone the implementation of the law.

This is also true, he said, of the religious establishment's intransigence vis-a-vis the High Court ruling for Reform and Conservative representatives to sit on local religious councils.

VILNA'I

Continued from Page 1

Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein responded that "it appears like cheap provocation

on the part of our rival, whose intention is to attach unfounded suspicion on Likud in some sort of poor man's Watergate."

Meanwhile, Amnon Shahak, the former chief of general staff who is running for prime minis-

ter, met earlier this week with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Labor MKs Haim Ramon and Shlomo Ben-Ami about forming a joint party. Israel Radio reported last night. No agreement was reached.

Labor's Knesset list selection problems continued, while Netanyahu expressed dissatisfaction with Likud's method of appointing candidates. Labor MK Yossi Beilin was attempting to bridge the gap between the party and MK Haim Ramon.

On Monday, Ramon told Barak he would not be seeking reelection to the party's Knesset list. He said he was unhappy with the primary voting system, approved on Sunday night.

The system allows party members to vote for nine to 11 candidates, while Ramon would rather fewer votes be cast, which in his opinion would improve his chances of getting a high slot.

Beilin spent yesterday attempting to raise the 100 signatures needed to organize another central committee meeting and reverse the decision and said he would be presenting a completed list to Cohen this morning.

Cohen said if 100 signatures are presented, he will call a central committee meeting, but he still said the newly adopted regulations should be implemented.

In usual circumstances, a central committee meeting is

arranged some 10 days after notice is served, but a party spokesman said it could be held with as little as three-hours notice.

Last night, it appeared as though the meeting may be held tomorrow, and candidates for Labor's list must register by no later than 4 p.m. that day. A party spokesman said the party's election committee could delay tomorrow's vote if needed.

"I'm sure that in just a few days this matter will be behind us in one way or another," Barak said. Netanyahu, meanwhile, threw the Likud into potential disarray by suggesting its candidate-selection method, approved three weeks ago, is unsuitable.

Party workers explained that he would prefer party members voting to select candidates be given 20 rather than 13 votes.

The latter was unanimously approved by the party's election committee. Netanyahu is said to favor 20 votes, as this will ease some of the doubt as for whom members should vote.

"At the moment, it appears as if this is only Netanyahu's wish and it will not be changed," said one official. "It's not as though his suggestion will make a difference to the top four or five stars of the party, but rather will allow members to choose more MKs."

Hillel Kuttler and Marilyn Henry contributed to this report.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

"Some people have suggested that we fear to do so. We do not."

He told an attentive audience that the House prosecutors made a weak case against Clinton. One of Ruff's central points was that even if the two articles of impeachment are true - that Clinton committed perjury and obstructed justice to conceal his affair with Monica Lewinsky - they do not rise to the level established by the framers of the Constitution for removing a chief executive from office.

"So how should you respond?" Ruff asked the senators. "You should reject it. There was no basis for the House to impeach and there wasn't, and won't be, a basis on which to convict."

Ruff periodically berated the House Judiciary Committee and its team of managers, accusing them of intellectual dishonesty by misstating facts and for avoiding the "difficult path" of "recognizing that difficult questions must be asked."

At one point, he referred to their "arrogance" and at another to their being "convinced by their own rhetoric." He also said the House

managers "should not be allowed" to get away with using a "shotgun or a bludgeon" to make their case.

"There is no court anywhere, from the highest to the lowest, that confronted with this indictment, would hesitate to throw [the case] out," he said.

After laying out the impeachment time line from the advent of Paula Jones's civil suit against Clinton until the present, Ruff pronounced dramatically: "And so, here we are."

Ruff then attacked the prosecution's repeated call for witnesses to appear at the trial, wondering aloud how the House managers "can be so certain of the strength of their case" if they have to rely on witnesses to testify in person.

The House prosecutors "simply have it wrong" in drawing parallels between impeached federal judges and Clinton, Ruff argued, both because the president's conduct occurred in the context of a private matter and not an issue of state, and because the constitutional standard for removing judges is actually stricter than in the present case, because judges serve for life and there is no other way but impeachment to remove them from office.

The president's team has 24 hours to present its defense, and

will likely conclude tomorrow. The 100 senators will then present questions to both sides.

Clinton, in his State of the Union address, was reportedly expected to ask the joint session of Congress to allocate \$4.2 billion to Russia over five years in programs aimed at preventing the export of nuclear weapons and technology. On the domestic side, he intended to present a proposal for a tax credit for parents who stay at home to raise their newborn children. White House officials said he would also unveil a welfare relief plan.

But, the officials emphasized, there would be absolutely no reference to the impeachment crisis.

Loft symbolized the odd juxtaposition of daytime and evening events, when he spoke briefly just before Ruff took the floor.

"I remind my colleagues," Loft said, "to be in the chamber at 8 p.m. so that we may proceed to the joint session."

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Rotary Club will take place today at 1:30 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Architect Arthur Spector will speak on: High-rise, not to rise.

The Hadassah College of Technology

deeply mourns the passing of
Dr. MIRIAM FREUND-ROSENTHAL

a great educator, friend and supporter of our institution since its inception, an outstanding leader of Hadassah and a true Zionist.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in the USA and in Israel.

Dr. Yaacov Amidi, Faculty, Staff and Students

Lifeline For The Old (Yad Lakashish)

deeply mourns the loss of
Dr. MIRIAM FREUND-ROSENTHAL

a good friend and supporter

Our heartfelt condolences to the entire family.

Yisrael Ba'aliya split likely tonight

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

MKs Yosi Stern and Michael Nudelman are expected to leave Yisrael Ba'aliya as a result of voting in tonight's meeting of the party's central committee, according to senior party sources.

The two are dissatisfied with Natan Sharansky's leadership of the party. Stern said if Sharansky cannot be toppled, they will leave the party, most probably to join Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu list.

"I don't believe there will be a split in the party at the conference," Sharansky said. "All are free to enter the party and to leave it."

However, party sources said for two of seven MKs to walk out is a real blow and is most certainly a schism in the party.

"There won't be fist fights, but it will be interesting to say the least," said one member.

Sharansky loyalists are bitterly angry with Stern for what they see as his working for Lieberman, while he is still a member of Yisrael Ba'aliya. Sharansky yesterday claimed that a week before Lieberman announced the creation of his list, Yosi Stern addressed a Yisrael Ba'aliya party meeting in the North at which he urged the creation of a new party called Yisrael Beiteinu.

Stern told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that Sharansky should check his facts before making such accusations. The meeting in Haifa took place two-and-a-half weeks before Lieberman's announcement and was a private meeting of Russian activists during which the creation of a new party was discussed.

Stern and Nudelman will ask tonight's meeting to allow a leadership challenge, but Sharansky has made it clear that party rules must be observed.

"You can't just say you want to be prime minister or president and have the vote a day later," Sharansky said.

The 500-strong central committee will be asked to approve the party executive's proposals for voting procedure to establish the list of candidates for the May 17 general election. The key proposals are:

- There will be no rules for registering candidates other than the payment of NIS 250.
- Should there be no more than 25 candidates, all will be eligible to stand for election to the list.
- Should their number exceed 25, they will be whittled down through election process to a panel of only 20 names.
- The number-one slot will be reserved for the party leader. Aside from that, there will be no reservations.
- The remaining positions will be fought one after another. The first vote will be for

all those standing for the second placing, then the third and so on. Candidates will be able to stand for as many positions as they wish between two and 20.

- Voting will be by secret ballot.

The last day for registration on the list is January 25, with voting taking place no later than February 17.

Stern and Nudelman will come to tonight's meeting with their own alternative proposals:

- A meeting of the wider party caucus within a month.
- Selection of the party's leader and list by the caucus by secret ballot.

Sharansky, meanwhile, confirmed yesterday that Labor MK Adisu Massala had been in talks about the possibility of joining, but they broke down as he would not receive a reserved seat. Massala denies there were direct negotiations.

Barak takes his campaign to Arab community

By DANNA HARMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's day started with bananas and dates in Kafr Kasim, proceeded to strawberries and Arabic small talk in Tira's town hall, wound through the narrow lanes of Umm el-Fahm, and ended after midnight with pears and baklava in rainy Saknin.

In between, traveling the country to celebrate Id al-Fitr with members of the Arab community, Barak stopped off to pay a condolence call in the Beduin village of Deir el-Makhsur, had a snack in Nazareth, shook hands with council members in Ilut, and munched on more pastries in Kafr Kana.

Through it all, between the bitter coffee and the endless welcoming speeches, Barak wished all a very happy holiday, and repeated his message of equality, tolerance, and respect for the Arab community.

"I will create a government for all the people," Barak said, eyeing some ripe oranges and freshly baked cookies in Tira. "Yes, everyone. Even the extremists will get what they have a right to — but no more. There will be no more extortion. Mine will be a government of justice and equality for all."

Barak uses the Rabin card often, proud of his rightful claim to it, and aware of its clout in this community. "Rabin was the first to take the Declaration of Independence off the paper and turn it into a reality on the streets," Barak told the elders of Kafr Kana. "And I, like him, believe that only when we have open channels of communication and respect for all will we be able to promise ourselves a brighter future."

The Arabs respond warmly and well to Barak. "We will all vote for Barak, pretty much unreservedly. What other option is there, really?"



Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak chats with a young resident of Tira yesterday, as local council head Kassein Khalil (center) looks on. Seen over Khalil's shoulder is MK Yossi Beilin.

asks Khaled Agbariya, a labor union leader in Umm el-Fahm.

In the last prime ministerial election, over 90 percent of the Arabs who came out to vote did so for Shimon Peres, and Barak hopes for the same sort of support. With Arabs making up 14 percent of the electorate, this would be a significant boost for him, and could make

the difference in a second round.

Nonetheless, Barak is careful not to take Arab support for granted. The Arab community knows its power and is playing coy. Arabs are demanding to bear what is on offer. They want to discuss specifics. They want to talk about everything from land confiscation and unemployment to equal educational

opportunities and sewage problems.

"What about the Moslem holy sites that have been transformed into Jewish cafes and restaurants?" asked Sheikh Abdullah Nimer Darawish, spiritual leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, sitting under a poster of Mecca and running prayer beads through his fingers.

Barak does not, however, make concrete promises. When asked to pledge that he will have an Arab minister in his government he shakes his head, demurring that now is not the time to discuss such matters. All will be examined with "utmost seriousness," and "much will change," avers the candidate — but no more.

Court asked to force gov't to implement housing law

By NINA GILBERT

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) and public housing residents petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday to demand that the government immediately implement the Public Housing Law entitling tenants of public apartments to purchase their homes at large discounts.

"There is a rejectionist government refusing to sell apartments to residents," Cohen said. "Every month, hundreds of residents are dying, thus losing rights."

Cohen demanded that the court order the government and Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush to immediately sell apartments to thousands of families who have asked to buy them.

The Housing Ministry spokesman

said Cohen's accusations are entirely "for political mileage as part of Meretz's election campaign."

According to Cohen, the ministry has not begun making preparations for implementing the law. However, the ministry said it is now dealing with fixing the "technical problems" introduced by Cohen's bill.

Cohen said residents received letters from the housing companies saying they were planning to implement the law, while the ministry sent letters saying the measure would be frozen due to the government's opposition.

The law could cost as much as NIS 1 billion annually, including subsidized loans and compensation to building owners who are not the state, including the Jewish Agency and United Jewish Appeal.

Time running out for the fence-sitters

ANALYSIS

By SHARON HOMI

The optimists among those watching the fence-sitters in both major parties derive encouragement from the fact that time is running out. The ostensibly undecided will have to jump off and make up their minds by the end of this week or be out of the running for the Likud and Labor Knesset lists.

The pessimists, however, know that nothing need necessarily be as good as it seems.

Disputes and quarrels will continue to be possible even after the Knesset lists are chosen. This means that realignments cannot be entirely ruled out till quite late in the game.

Considering his inauspicious political start, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, for instance, will surely not mind picking up star recruits even at a later date.

But for the short haul there will

have to be at least an interim decision by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai no later than Friday if he wishes to put his name on the ballot in the Likud race for Knesset slots.

In Labor the list closes a day earlier, so we should have a clearer indication of Haim Ramon's intentions by tomorrow afternoon.

Unfortunately for Ramon, he will have to make his move before Mordechai does, and Mordechai has been responsible for many of Ramon's recent vacillations.

When Mordechai seemed poised to quit the Likud, there were hints that, like him, Ramon too would opt for the Shahak alternative. With Mordechai at his side, betting on Shahak would appear less foolhardy.

Yet when Mordechai invited

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to his home a week ago, Ramon figured the defense minister was staying put. He announced he would remain in Labor.

When Mordechai defied political observers and continued to insist that his mind was not made up, Ramon fomented his latest crisis within Labor.

According to several independent reports from Labor, Barak is at a loss to explain what Ramon is up to.

Ramon's latest sulk over the method of electing the Knesset primaries candidates is bizarre and

not easily understood by the rank and file. Ramon did not so much as attend the meeting which determined the method and, most of all, it is doubtful he genuinely fears being pushed down the list.

If that were his concern, Barak would guarantee him nearly any slot for which he asked.

But Ramon has rejected such offers.

Perhaps Barak ought to look again to Mordechai for clues. That would lead him to realize that his acquisition of Matan Vilna'i minimizes the likelihood of Mordechai leaving the Likud, despite Mordechai's unabated posturing.

Mordechai continues to make Netanyahu sweat. Netanyahu had been pressing Mordechai to appear with him at a party rally in Beit Shemesh tonight, but he has still not said yes. A four-hour, tete-a-tete between Netanyahu and his defense minister, which ended at 3 a.m. yesterday, failed to produce the awaited announcement from Mordechai.

However, the fact that Vilna'i is not going to the Likud, where he had been shopping, indicates that he had not secured a promise for the defense portfolio or that he knows it had already been promised Mordechai.

If Ramon reads the same message as Vilna'i, then chances are

he will not end up with Shahak, because the probability is low that Mordechai will.

This, therefore, increases the likelihood of a compromise which will keep Ramon in Labor.

However, even if the magic formula is found, it will not necessarily make Ramon a happy camper. The testimony of all Labor higher-ups is that Ramon is extremely disaffected.

He has a long history of incompatibility with Barak and feels he deserves a higher rating in his party than he is likely to get.

To his mind, he should at least be in the third slot, right after Barak and Shimon Peres. Since Peres's No. 2 is honorary only, that would make Ramon the real second-in-command. Ramon is almost certain that his aspirations will be frustrated.

On the other hand, if he were going to walk out of Labor, he could have already done so and without first delivering his pro-Barak address last week.

Ramon says nearly all his Labor colleagues, may at this point not really know what he wants. Or it may be that the swiftly switching signals from his fellow vacillator in the Likud have thoroughly unsettled him, especially as seemingly glittering opportunities in a yet-unborn center party fade fast before his very eyes.

ELECTIONS

notebook

Edelstein campaigns in territories

Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein yesterday promised Russian immigrants in Kiryat Arba that he would try to ease the absorption process for them. He said he would do his utmost to help establish a cultural center for immigrants in the city and to boost educational assistance for the youth.

The minister also was extremely touched when pupils presented him with a petition supporting his efforts to release Jonathan Pollard. As criticism between the Left and Right continued over Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's efforts to persuade Ehud Barak to sign a joint letter demanding Pollard's release, Edelstein called on all government officials to refrain from exploiting the issue for political purposes. Edelstein also yesterday urged Jewish residents in Hebron to accept defensive measures proposed by the IDF, saying their children's safety should come before ideology.

Edelstein declared that while he understood their fears that adopting such measures may have a "snowball effect" and lead to them living in "fortresses," the community should continue its dialogue with security officials for the sake of its children's security.

Edelstein promised to raise the security issues with government officials and ensure that it remains high on the agenda. While Hebron — as well as Beit El and other communities in Judea and Samaria — will become a focal point for candidates on the election trail in the coming months, Hebron Jewish Community spokesman Noam Arnon said that one thing his community has learned is that the majority of politicians' promises are forgotten shortly after elections. Arnon said that Edelstein appeared to have understood the reasoning behind the community's reluctance to agree to the proposed IDF measures. "Terror cannot be prevented by forcing Jews to live in cages. We demand that effective and active measures be taken to ensure our security," he said. The IDF demands, Arnon said, are a paradox if one considers that as the peace process moves forward there is an increase in demands that Jewish residents adopt stringent defensive measures.

Margot Dudkevitch

Meretz: Bushinsky shouldn't campaign

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) filed a complaint yesterday with Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander asking that he check whether Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky is violating the commission rules.

Cohen noted that Bushinsky, a state worker, is speaking on behalf of Netanyahu's campaign to be elected as the Likud's prime ministerial candidate and is taking part in Netanyahu's election campaigning. He asked Hollander to check whether Netanyahu should have a separate spokesman for his campaign.

Nina Gilbert

Peretz to form workers' party

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz will announce the establishment of a worker's party today, he said yesterday.

Peretz will declare his intention to leave Labor during a meeting of his associates at Tel Aviv's Cinerama this afternoon.

During his speech, Peretz will outline the party's platform, but full details will only be published later, said one of his aides. Peretz will be the third MK to leave Labor in the last few weeks, joining Hagga Merom and Nissim Zivili. Party members suggest that Peretz' divorce will be short-lived and he will rejoin forces, one way or another, should Ehud Barak be elected prime minister. Meretz MK Ran Cohen reacted to the planned announcement by saying: "Amir Peretz is slapping himself in the face."

David Zev Harris

Meimad to register as party today

Meimad, the moderate religious movement, announced yesterday that it will register as a political party today. Spokesman Moni Mordechai said that even if Meimad joins one of the larger political blocs, it wants to do so as a political party, not as a group of individuals. "We want to have the freedom to vote our conscience on issues which are important to us, such as religion and state," Mordechai said. He added that as a party with its own identity, Meimad also hopes to attract all those who have been disappointed by the National Religious Party and The Third Way.

Haim Shapiro

ON THE RECORD

I'll tell you who's at the center of things. It's the prime minister and his selected and sometimes unknown entourage — Ze'ev (Benny) Begin suggesting Binyamin Netanyahu does not even share key decision-making issues with members of the inner cabinet.

Amir Peretz is slapping himself in the face — MK Ran Cohen on Peretz's decision to set up a worker's party.

NEW EMUNAH DAY CARE CENTER

At the January 17th dedication ceremony of the Frank and Eva Silverberg Day Care Center in Beit Shemesh (l-r): Erika Richter, past president, Emunah-Montreal; Edith Zucker, president, Emunah-Montreal, Canada; Roelien Schneikman, executive director, Emunah-Canada; Rochel Sylvestsky, chairperson, Emunah-Israel; Chana Melamed, chairperson, World Emunah; and Sylvia Schorfeld, national president, Emunah-U.S.A.

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Schools report 3 sexual abuse cases a week - ministry

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

New programs to prevent sexual assaults by pupils on their classmates, including the possible use of experts from rape crisis centers, will be launched in the nation's schools and existing ones expanded following a recent increase in such crimes, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy promised yesterday.

"The recent sharp increase in the number of rapes and cases of sexual abuse involving pupils is very worrisome and requires increasing the awareness of all elements to this serious phenomenon," Levy said.

He called on educators, parents and pupils to report any suspicion of sexual assault. "Such responsible behavior could prevent or stop a pattern of abuse a pupil may be caught up in and help them escape this nightmare as quickly as possible."

Levy's announcement followed reports of more arrests yesterday in the gang rape of two girls, aged 13 and 15, which took place in the Haifa bay-side suburbs some 18 months ago. The two were also reportedly sodomized and blackmailed.

According to media reports, Baruch Lavetta, Shimon Tedela, Roli Motza and Hanan Makri, all 19 and all from the Haifa bay-side suburbs, were arrested Sunday as suspects in the attacks, and more arrests were expected.

The incident follows another gang rape reported recently in the Ramat Hasharon region. A Tel Aviv District Court yesterday permitted publication of a third

attack, also in Ramat Hasharon, in which five youths are accused of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl. The five are currently under house arrest.

The principal of the school one of the girls attends was responsible for uncovering the incident in the Haifa area, and with the aid of Education Ministry officials eventually convinced the girls to press charges.

Since the beginning of the school year, some 60 complaints about sexual assaults by pupils against their classmates have been received by the ministry, an average of three or four a week.

Among them was a case involving a group of first-graders in a school in the center of the country who undressed a girl in their class and sexually abused her, according to Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, executive director of the National Council for the Child. There have even been incidents involving kindergarten pupils, Kadman said. He added that the number of cases involving sexual assault by children, not only those that occurred at school, has increased from 144 in 1990 to 246 in 1997.

"The numbers are always increasing," Kadman said. "We can't blame it on any one reason. Part of it is an increase in the number of children who were themselves victims of sexual abuse, because it is known that some of the children involved in such attacks were victims in the past."

The increase in violence in Israeli society is partly to blame, but so is the fact that children "are increasingly exposed to material

they should not be exposed to, be it on the Internet, in advertisements, or even in the daily press where advertisements for sex services are run," Kadman said. "A child won't commit rape just because of that, but it's another erosion of the brakes on such activity. Maybe this happens with children whose brakes aren't as strong in this regard."

Kadman added that police and the courts need to get tougher with sex offenders and that a wide-ranging educational campaign needs to be launched to fight the problem. "Only when all these things are done together will be able to deal with the phenomenon."

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry announced this week that a wide range of prevention programs are to be prepared to deal with the issue, as well as others aimed at helping schools deal with incidents that are uncovered.

Levy called on teachers and principals to "be aware of signs of distress" among pupils and promised "there will be more money for such programs." He said he will give serious consideration to having rape crisis center experts and other non-ministry personnel participate in them.

Noga Shiloah, director of the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center, said that while she welcomed the minister's interest in involving rape crisis center staff in combating such incidents, requests for funding from the ministry for similar activities the staffers conduct in schools had been rejected.

Item contributed to this report

Rape counsellor: Teach your children the meaning of 'no'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Rather than looking for signs in their children of participation or victimization in sex crimes, parents "should start speaking to them ahead of time," Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center director Noga Shiloah said yesterday.

"I think every parent who reads the newspaper and sees the situation should take it upon himself to talk to his or her children, and not leave it to the Education Ministry. They should explain to them that these things are not to be done."

Talking about the problem in the schools is also important, Shiloah said, and her organization already offers workshops for

13-18-year-olds.

Seventeen calls regarding incidents of gang rape have been received by the center so far this school year, Shiloah said. "I think women file complaints more often than before, inspired by people like Linor Abergil and other women who are saying that women should not be afraid and talk about it." The way the media depict women as sex objects also contributes to the problem, she argued.

"In a gang rape, what happens is that the participants see the victim as an object, and not as a woman or a person," she explained. Shiloah said that what is worrying about the current state of incidents is that "we are not talking about criminal types,

but rather so-called good boys. This is what should make us all feel that something is wrong."

Any kind of withdrawal or depression among girls should be looked into by parents as possible sign of sexual assault, although these are not specific only to rape victims. Shiloah said. "There are no signs for a rapist: It can be anybody. Don't look for a sign - start speaking about it ahead of time."

"Every parent should tell their sons that before going to bed with a woman, they should ask and make sure that she agrees," Shiloah said. "They should have respect for a woman and her body. It's not a tool to be used to enjoy sex."



Suspected rapist Uri Shlomo is brought to Ramle Magistrate's Court yesterday flanked by his lawyer, David Yiftah, and a police officer. (Yael Souda/Israel Sun)

Shlomo denies raping Miss World

Uri Shlomo yesterday denied raping Miss World Linor Abergil, telling reporters: "I didn't do this dirty thing."

Ramle Magistrate's Court ordered that Shlomo, 43, of Jerusalem, be held until January 31 pending a police inquiry into the suspected rape outside Milan, Italy, on October 6.

The police had requested that he be remanded until February 2, telling the court they were concerned that he would flee the country if he were released.

Shlomo, arrested at Ben-Gurion International Airport on his return home this month, told reporters yesterday: "I came to Israel on my own initiative and no one urged me not to come to Israel."

"I didn't do this dirty thing. I didn't do this disgusting thing, and I am an innocent man," he said at the start of the court hearing.

Abergil, who won the Miss World crown in November, alleges that Shlomo, who operates a travel agency in Milan, raped her at knifepoint in his car after offering to drive her to Rome.

Moshe Meroz, one of Shlomo's attorneys, quoted him as saying they had consensual sex in Shlomo's Milan apartment.

The court rejected Meroz's claim that since Shlomo is being tried in Italy there is no need to try him here.

"It's not possible to have a situation where we tell the Italians, 'You freed him, we're

going to try and imprison him.' That's absurd," Meroz said, adding that Israel does not exist in a bubble and must respect the justice system's of other states.

A media and communications student who also holds the Miss Israel title, Abergil won the international crown seven weeks after the alleged rape, defeating 85 other contestants.

In a statement last week Abergil said she hoped to serve as an example to other assaulted women and to encourage them to face the issue even at the price of public exposure.

Foreign newspaper reports have said Miss World organizers had no knowledge of her alleged ordeal before this year's pageant in the Seychelles. (News agencies)

No problem trying Shlomo here

Under Israeli law, there is no doubt a local court has jurisdiction to try Uri Shlomo on charges of raping and attempting to kill Linor Abergil in Italy.

While it is true Israeli criminal law generally applies to crimes committed here, there are many cases where Israeli courts have jurisdiction over crimes committed abroad. The most famous examples are those of indicting Nazi war criminals - such as Adolf Eichmann or Ivan Demjanuk - for crimes allegedly performed in Europe before the state was even established.

In the Abergil case, two separate grounds may apply for extra-territorial jurisdiction. First, the law authorizes prosecution in Israel for crimes abroad against an Israeli citizen. Second, the law authorizes the prosecution here of an Israeli who committed a crime outside Israel.

Since both the suspect and the victim are Israelis, either of these grounds would allow for the trial to take place here.

There are a few restrictions on Israel's power to prosecute for

an extra-territorial act. First, the crime must be punishable not only in Israel, but also where committed. Since rape and attempted murder are crimes

under both Israeli and Italian law, this condition is satisfied.

Second, there can be no trial in Israel if the accused has already been acquitted in the foreign country or released after being convicted. In the present case, Shlomo was arrested in Italy, but was not tried for lack

of evidence. Hence, there is no impediment to a trial in Israel. Finally, the law provides that if the accused is found guilty, an Israeli court cannot sentence him for a longer sentence than he would have received under Italian law.

Shlomo does not have a choice in the matter, and if he is indicted he will have to stand trial in Israel. The question is whether the prosecution will be able to gather the evidence necessary for conviction.

The writer is a lecturer at the Radzyner Law School, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya.

BACKGROUND

Uri Shlomo, 43, of Jerusalem, was arrested at Ben-Gurion International Airport on his return home this month.

Harassment complaints in IDF up 43%

By NINA GILBERT

The number of sexual harassment complaints investigated by the Military Police rose by 43 percent in 1998, compared with a year earlier, indicating more serious treatment of such incidents, OC Women's Corps Brig-Gen. Orit Adato reported to the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women yesterday.

Moreover, she said, 23 indictments were served last year, compared with 16 in 1997. The number of complaints, however, was down to 276 from 289.

Naomi Chazan (Meretz) noted that the number of complaints only represents 10 percent of sexual harassment incidents. But Adato said there is increased awareness of the problem of sexual harassment in the IDF.

Chazan said in the past two years there has been a 33% increase in cases going to the Military Police.

According to Adato, 27% of those accused of sexual

harassment are conscripts, 24% career soldiers, 28% officers, 7% civilian workers, and 4% reservists. The other 10% were not specified.

Last year, the 143 cases not investigated by the Military Police were dealt with by army units, and in 60 instances, disciplinary hearings were held, resulting in 40 reprimands. Ten of the complaints were from men.

Adato noted that only one in three complaints was of a physical attack, while the rest were of verbal harassment. She acknowledged that most cases resulting in indictment involved physical attacks, due to the need for solid evidence.

She noted that IDF's policy is that a soldier may not ask to be transferred to another unit because of a sexual harassment incident unless she agrees to file a complaint. Those who do complain do not face removal from their units, unless they request a transfer.

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Study shows Dead Sea good for heart patients

By JUDY SIEGEL

Although the salty body of water is called the Dead Sea, it has a life-giving effect on heart patients.

Spending time at the lowest natural point on earth has now been proven to have beneficial influences on such patients, increasing supply of oxygen to the heart muscle and reducing its oxygen requirements.

Because of the low altitude, high barometric pressure, oxygen-enriched atmosphere and unique mineral content of the water, patients who have undergone a heart attack or heart surgery are able to exert themselves significantly more than in other environments.

An article by a Bnei Zion Hospital cardiologist, which will soon appear in the *American Journal of Cardiology*, states that heart patients were able to exercise an average of 15 percent longer during a five-day visit to the Dead Sea than when they were similarly tested at the Haifa government hospital.

The pilot study was carried out by Prof. Edward Abinader, Dr. Dawad Sharif, Dr. Shmuel Rauchfleisch, Dr. Sergey Pinzur, and Alon Tanchilevitz at Bnei Zion and a Dead Sea facility.

Abinader, who is director of the Haifa Hospital's cardiology institute and intensive care unit, said the study could promote medical tourism to Israel.

Doctors in Israel and around the world who read the study may recommend to their patients that they

spend medical holidays at the Dead Sea, he said. "We have proven that - unlike high-altitude areas, such as Colorado - low-altitude areas at the Dead Sea cause no harm to heart patients; in addition, we have shown that the environment does them good. We don't know, however, how long this effect lasts, if at all, after they return home. For that, we're considering a follow-up study."

Abinader said the high magnesium concentrations in the area help heart function, as magnesium in drug form has already proved beneficial.

Located 402 meters below sea level, the Dead Sea area has previously been shown to relieve psoriasis, a chronic skin disease, and many people flock there from Europe and other parts of the world for periodic treatment.

Before the Bnei Zion study, no research was conducted on the short-term effects of the Dead Sea environment on cardiac patients. Twelve patients (eight men and four women at an average age of 66) were compared with six normal control patients, aged matched and without signs of heart disease.

They underwent echocardiograms after exercising on a stationary bike both in Haifa and at the Dead Sea. The beneficial effects on blood pressure and exercise performance were "sustained" throughout their stay there, and patients were observed to have reduced ischemia (inadequate oxygen supply to the heart muscle).

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Crime growth slows in 1998

By AMY KLEIN

Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk yesterday released annual crime figures for 1998 which showed an overall 2.8% rise in reported crime over 1997. He noted that the growth in crime was significantly less than the previous year's rise.

The figures also show that crime reached an all-time high this year, with over 500,000 criminal cases reported.

According to the report, crime rose 15.2% between 1996 and 1997, and was up 5.8% in 1998 over 1997.

But, Wilk added, "I am not proud of the amount of crime in this country. Our goal is not to minimize the increase, but to lower it." He noted that since 1994, crime had risen by 30%.

Wilk, who just completed his first year as inspector-general, said he believes the police is on the way toward lowering crime. "When you talk about countries

around the world that reduce crime, you will find it takes at least three years."

Wilk attributed the smaller increase in crime last year to more policemen and policewomen. By next month, an additional 1,200 police will have been added to the force since 1997.

Still, serious crime — murder, attempted murder, robbery, sexual molestations, corruption, bribery, and arson — is on the rise. Almost 9,000 cases of this type were reported this year, up 27% since 1997.

As recently publicized cases of serial rapists suggest, there was a 12.5% increase in the number of reported rapes — or what police term "forced or threatened rape" — this year, which only represents a "fraction" of rapes that actually occur, Wilk said.

Violence between spouses has increased by 7% even though 12 women were murdered by their partners this year, compared to 16 in 1997.

Murder is down to 141 victims

Changes in crime rate

Crime	% change compared to '97
Murder (excluding terrorism)	-9.6%
Violent Rape	+12.5%
Violent/Armed Robbery	-1%
Violence between Couples:	+7.3%
Youth Crime	+6.7%
Drug Crimes (possession, use, and dealing)	+14.4%
OVERALL CHANGE	+2.8%

in 1998, compared to 156 victims in 1997, excluding terrorism. Police attribute the lower rate to fewer terrorist attacks, whose victims are included in the national

statistics. With terrorist attacks the figures are 146 in 1998 and 211 in 1997.

Organized crime is the biggest challenge facing police, Wilk said,

citing the case of Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) as an example of incidents which straddle the line of legitimacy. "We are strengthening ties with other countries around the world — particularly Russia — to combat international organized crime," Wilk said.

He refused to release figures on what community criminals belong to, despite a report released last month by Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani. The report cited a significant increase in crime by youths from the former Soviet immigrant community, which has had an impact on rising crime by youth in the main community.

The Palestinian Police has not been cooperative with the Israel Police in helping retrieve stolen property, Wilk said, noting that Israeli police are tracking down car thieves and chop shops in Area B of the Palestinian-controlled territory. A whopping 42,792 cars were stolen in 1998, down 9% from the previous year.

NEWS

in brief

Industrial action at airport today

Some incoming passengers at Ben-Gurion Airport could face long delays in going through customs today because of industrial action by the customs workers. Shmuel Levy, head of the customs workers union, said the workers intend to examine the luggage of every passenger from some flights, while allowing all the passengers of other flights to go through customs unchecked. Levy said the action is in response to the Treasury's rejection of all of the workers demands following protracted negotiations. *Haim Shapiro*

Bezeq introduces call-waiting block

Bezeq subscribers who want to temporarily suspend their call-waiting feature can now do so, by dialing *70 before making a call. The new, free service allows people to temporarily eliminate the sometimes annoying call-waiting beep during a vital call and while using a modem for computer communications or surfing the Internet. After the call is completed, the call-waiting feature is reactivated. *Judy Siegel*

Wolf Prizes in math, physics awarded

A Technion scientist will receive the 1999 Wolf Prize in physics, while Yale University and Princeton University professors will share the Wolf Prize in mathematics. Prof. Dan Shechtman, 57, of the Technion's department of materials engineering, has been cited for his experimental discovery of quasi-crystals, which inspired the exploration of a new fundamental state of matter. The mathematics prize is to be shared by Prof. Laszlo Lovasz of Yale for his outstanding contributions to combinatorics, theoretical computer science, and combinatorial optimization; and Prof. Elias M. Stein of Princeton, for his contributions to classical and Euclidean-Fourier analysis and his impact on a new generation of analysts through his eloquent teaching and writing. *Judy Siegel*

Road accidents down, injuries up

The number of road accidents decreased 1.5 percent, to 25,114, last year, compared to 1997, while injuries increased 2.5%, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday. Casualties totaled 48,699 in 1998, and 540 people died, while an additional 3,342 were seriously injured, according to figures gathered by the police and compiled by the bureau. According to the bureau's trend figures, the average number of road accidents each month decreased by 1.7% from 2,330 accidents in January to 1,859 accidents in December. *Jessica Steinberg*

Katsav against non-Israeli VIP burial on Mt. Herzl

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Ceremonies and Symbols, yesterday opposed broadening the eligibility criteria for burial in the section reserved for national figures on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl. Katsav said the section is reserved exclusively for the country's leaders. He was responding to inquiries made on behalf of Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, as to his eligibility for burial in the cemetery. Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg is to form a committee of former president Ephraim Kacir, former Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar, and a representative of the Zionist executive to discuss the case and define clearer guidelines. *Jim*

American immigrant found slain in Tel Aviv

By HEDI J. GLEIT

Police yesterday morning found the body of a man, who immigrated from New York in 1996, on the blood-stained floor of his Tel Aviv apartment.

It appeared that the man, 61, had been murdered several days earlier, according to a police spokeswoman.

The victim's father, who lives in the US, contacted Israeli authorities there because he had been

unable to contact his son for several days. When Tel Aviv policemen went to his apartment on Rehov Ben-Yehuda to check on him, the door was unlocked and the body was on the kitchen floor.

The apartment had been ransacked, police said, but it was unclear if anything had been stolen.

There are no suspects yet and the motive for the murder still is unclear, a police spokeswoman said.

Poraz to sue Romania over Jewish property

By NIMA GILBERT

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) said yesterday he would sue Romania in the International Court of Justice in The Hague for its refusal to return Jewish property. Poraz, chairing a session of the Knesset subcommittee on the restitution of Jewish property, also called for "massive international

pressure" on Eastern European states to restore Jewish property, both private and communal.

"These countries should know that their actions will not help them but harm them," he said.

"This is not a matter of demanding reparations which could impact the financial status of these countries, but a matter of restoring property to its rightful owners."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (left) and his Romanian counterpart, Victor Babiu, review an honor guard at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Israel Sam)

Defense ties boosted with Romania

By ARNIE O'SULLIVAN

Romania and Israel decided yesterday to expand ties in strategic planning, defense industries, and between their armed forces.

The decision came at a meeting between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and his Romanian counterpart, Victor Babiu.

"I came here to strengthen the bilateral military and political links between Romania and Israel through permanent, high-level meetings," Babiu said afterward.

He added that there would be an exchange of information and experience between the IDF and the Romanian armed forces and cooperation with defense industries.

"I am speaking of selling and purchasing of weapons and joint production in Israel and Romania," he said.

It was decided that strengthened defense ties would be examined in three separate areas. The strategic

dialogue would be headed by David Ivry, Mordechai's most senior adviser. The defense industry track would be headed by ministry Director-General Ilan Biran, and links between the two armed forces would come under IDF responsibility.

Defense sources said that Babiu's visit is not only to promote defense relations, but also to foster personal ties between the two defense establishments. Mordechai hosted Babiu and his delegation at a dinner last night.

Babiu was here in August, when he accompanied Prime Minister Radu Vasile and met with Mordechai, but this is considered his first official visit.

Israeli defense companies, such as Elbit Systems, are upgrading Romania's MiG-21 fleet to NATO standards under a \$330 million contract. Elbit is also converting 40 of Romania's French-made Puma transport helicopters to

attack configuration. Romania is keen on joining NATO and wants to bring its army up to NATO levels.

During his visit, Babiu is visiting Elia and Tadiaran and will receive more briefings from top Defense Ministry officials. He will be accompanied during his visit by senior officials of the Romanian Ministry of Defense.

Babiu's visit comes amid serious protests by thousands of coal miners in Romania and he said that if need be, the army would be deployed to prevent them from entering Bucharest.

"Their getting to the capital will undermine the stability of the country, harm its institutions, and be a blow to Romania's image," Babiu told Israeli Radio.

Romania's image is very important now since it is trying to win aid from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to repay a reported national debt of \$2.8 billion.

Panel: Keep secular schools in all Jerusalem neighborhoods

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

State secular schools must continue to be maintained in all Jerusalem neighborhoods, the Knesset Education Committee decided yesterday, calling on the Jerusalem Municipality to find adequate solutions within two weeks for the children of such schools facing closure or unification.

The committee will discuss those solutions at that time and called for continued pluralism and coexistence in the city.

"It's inconceivable that in secular neighborhoods like Rasco, the German Colony, Ramot Eshkol and others, kindergartens and state secular schools be closed and something else opened instead," committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann said. "Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, must be kept strong, with coexistence between

religious and secular.

"The secular also have rights in the city, and the threat of the closure of secular schools represents a struggle for the nature of the city," said Zissmann, adding that if solutions are not found the committee would join the parents' efforts to keep the schools open.

MK Naomi Hazan (Meretz) said the closure of state secular schools in secular neighborhoods "will lead to the neighborhood turning haredi within 3-5 years, which is what happened in several neighborhoods. I will not agree to closing state schools or their unification."

"This is a difficult but necessary step," Meir Kraus, director of the Jerusalem Education Authority, said of the proposed closures. "On the one hand, we have 400 empty classrooms in state secular schools throughout the city because of a drop in the secular population, while on the other hand we have

serious overcrowding in other schools. There is no alternative to unifying small schools into a bigger, more viable schools."

Jerusalem parents attending the session protested the proposed closings. "My children are 10th-generation Jerusalemites, and before I pack up and move I will fight and do what I can do to guarantee them a good education," Orna Angel, chairwoman of the Hacharmeli school in the German Colony, said.

But United Torah Judaism MK Shmuel Halpern said he does not know what all the fuss is about. "I don't understand the fear of turning a secular school that is emptying into a haredi school. Are people worried the PLO or Hamas is going to come in there, God forbid? There is a natural demographic movement. In the past in Tel Aviv religious schools closed down because there weren't enough pupils."

Eitan denied entry to Modi'in waste site

By LIAT COLLINS

Environment Minister Rafael Eitan and the ministry have filed a police complaint against Ramle Mayor Yoel Lavi and the director-general of the Ayalon Region Association of Towns Yona Peled, who yesterday prevented Eitan from visiting the site near Modi'in where medical waste has been dumped illegally without proper treatment.

The ministry also is expected to file charges shortly against Admon, the company which has the Health Ministry monopoly on disposal of medical waste. It has issued a closure order of the site.

although the report into the dumping found no danger to drinking water in the area.

When Eitan arrived at the site yesterday to see the site first-hand, he found the gates were locked and Peled said he had instructions from Lavi not to let him in. He was on a tour of the Shoham area with senior ministry officials.

Apart from Eitan's parliamentary immunity which should allow him access, as minister he is responsible for authorizing the ministry's enforcement patrols to enter any site suspected of violating the law.

Eitan described the behavior as

"shameful hooliganism unfitting of a mayor." He said the incident made him suspect they were trying to hide something. Lavi has been fighting the ministry for more than a year over treatment of environmental matters including a court battle over the town's sewage treatment facilities.

In a local radio interview, Lavi said Eitan had done nothing for the environment and should stop harassing him. He also reportedly accused the minister of exploiting the affair for election purposes.

Roni Komar, the ministry's new director-general, said the ministry would consider medical waste as hazardous material.

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Milosevic mindbender

If it's not Saddam, it's Slobodan—a nasty enough little double act to make one wonder if their steps are being coordinated and rehearsed.

That's just a whimsy of course. History has made some strange bedfellows, but a Moslem-hating Serb and a West-hating Arab don't seem compatible. However, when an odd couple adopts dictatorship as a way of life, hatred as a philosophy, everyone as an enemy, and massacre as an instrument of social engineering, who's to say?

What is really infuriating about the Serbs' latest resort to mass murder in Kosovo is the contemptuous arrogance with which they have persisted in lying about it, removing the evidence (the bodies) from under the noses of the international monitors and banning war-crimes investigators.

What is getting very worrisome indeed is the world community's alarming failure to deal with murderous dictators, apart from issuing statements of grave concern, promises of impending firm action and last-minute capitulations to these leaders of political mafia.

Internal medicine

This massacre in Kosovo is not one of those "isolated" or "wild weed" incidents beloved of atrocity apologists. The province of Kosovo is 90 percent ethnic Albanian, and since Milosevic launched his latest mission to "cleanse" the former Yugoslavs of all non-Serbs, more than 2,000 Kosovars have been killed and hundreds of thousands have fled the countryside as refugees. Behind them, their homes and villages have been bombed and burned down.

As in Bosnia, the enduring image of Serb culture has become the line of corpses, the bombed-out village houses. The devastation is like some scenes from *Catch 22*, except the rampaging "Milo" has become Milosevic Mindbender.

The world has had a problem over Kosovo since, unlike Bosnia, it is a province of Serbia, and the demands of the Kosovo Liberation Army for independence at first seemed ridiculous. Autonomy fine, another unstable Balkan mini-state, no thanks. But President Slobodan Milosevic, a prima facie war criminal, is a dangerous man to leave in charge of an "internal problem."

Body counts inexplicably keep mounting.

Under US and NATO pressure, Milosevic last October agreed to placing in Kosovo the monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). His decision now to declare the leader of the team persona non grata for doing his job—reporting the massacre of 42 civilian ethnic Albanians by Serb police—demonstrates only that Milosevic's disregard for truth is matched by his belief that he can get away with it.

Elephantitis

The stark photographs of the chief prosecutor of the UN war-crimes court in The Hague

being blocked from entering Kosovo on Monday say it all. The United Nations, NATO, the European Union, the United States are suffering from some fin de siècle paralysis in the face of determined dictators.

Some blame the paralysis on the obsessive partisan impeachment process in Washington that has drained all willpower from US foreign policy. Some blame the EU for failing to have any foreign or defense policy at all. Everyone blames the United Nations for becoming the most expensive white elephant in history.

The UN slithered out of Bosnia after the Serbs continued mass killings under the noses of the peacekeepers. It is now slithering out of Angola after spending \$1.5 billion on another massively failed peace mission.

NATO redeemed to some extent the image of Western and UN wimpiness in Bosnia. It destroyed the Bosnian Serb military machine, clearing the way for the Dayton peace accord. It's not perfect, but it is still in place.

It is clear that after the latest Serb atrocity in Kosovo, Milosevic needs to be taught another serious lesson. In October, NATO came to within 48 hours of unleashing its 400 warplanes on standby across the Adriatic, and Milosevic backed down. He agreed to pull out his murderous troops from Kosovo and allow in up to 2,000 OSCE monitors.

No doubts

As usual, it was a bluff he had no intention of keeping as long as he calculated he could get away with it. Worse, almost everyone involved knew it.

The monitor force never reached more than 700 and now its head, William Walker, has been ordered out. (Footnote: Saddam declared the head of the UN weapons monitors persona non grata. Good ideas do catch on.)

Milosevic's promised "withdrawal" appears to have been accidentally translated into Serbian as "advance and destroy."

Diplomatically, legally and morally the response should be obvious. Milosevic is in clear breach of the October agreement, his forces have committed yet another war crime. Guilty as charged—sentence, severe retribution. NATO planes should already be wiping out the military targets they have prepared.

But no. Once again Milosevic is being bombarded with expressions of outrage, serious concern and "if you do that again we might be forced to issue more statements."

So he moved up tanks and cannon to Racak, the scene of the massacre, and proceeded to pound it further. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan issued a statement saying he was "gravely concerned."

State Department spokesman James Rubin said "there should be no doubt about NATO's resolve."

There isn't James. Milosevic said he really, really cares and will get in touch with his feelings. In the meantime, it will soon be Saddam's turn to do the UN tango again.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

James Carville's pit bull-y pulpit

Barak's American campaign adviser is looking abroad for business because at home he's too controversial for any candidate to hire him

By HOWARD KURTZ

James Carville is in mid-tirade. His ghoul-like smile is frozen in place, his eyes narrowed to scary-looking slits, his bald head tilted at an unnatural angle.

"This is a school-lunch-cutting, government-closing, right-wing-worshipping, sex-obsessed, president-hating party," he says of the Republicans.

Carville is filibustering CNBC's Chris Matthews, a night after fulminating at Larry King's elbow. He's just decided to form a political action committee—along with former White House aide Rahm Emanuel and onetime presidential pollster Stan Greenberg—aimed at defeating selected Republicans in 2000.

But there are plenty of PACs, and only one Ragin' Cajun.

"James lives in a border town between genius and madness," says White House adviser Paul Begala, his former business partner. "Now that he's rich and famous, he's eccentric. I knew him when he was just crazy."

But Carville's critics say he's crazy like a fox. As President Bill Clinton's friend and informal adviser, he automatically commands attention when he bitterly denounces Kenneth Starr, Newt Gingrich, Henry Hyde, Tom DeLay and Bob Barr. But as a best-selling author, highly paid lecturer and international consultant, he has the luxury of insisting he's just a plain old private citizen speaking his mind.

The reality is somewhere in between. Carville writes his own scripts, but he speaks to Clinton several times a week, according to his wife, Mary Matalin. And the president gets a ferocious advocate—with complete deniability when Carville starts savaging Clinton's opponents.

"The White House is saying they oppose the politics of personal destruction, while they are the chief practitioners of it in the United States today," says Clifford May, communications chief for the Republican National Committee. "James Carville has been doing this for a very long time, declaring war, fighting war on any basis."

"James is marginalizing himself," says Dick Morris, a Fox News commentator who worked for Clinton's 1996 campaign until his own brush with scandal. "He's gone from a highly respected, acute and intelligent political strategist to being almost a demented fringe advocate.... He's making himself something of a laughingstock. I think it hurts the cause."

CARVILLE, 54, revels in such charges. He is a master at flipping an interviewer's question, making himself the victim and firing at his critics, working himself into a paroxysm of outrage.

"This is not the politics of personal destruction, this is the politics of politics," he says.

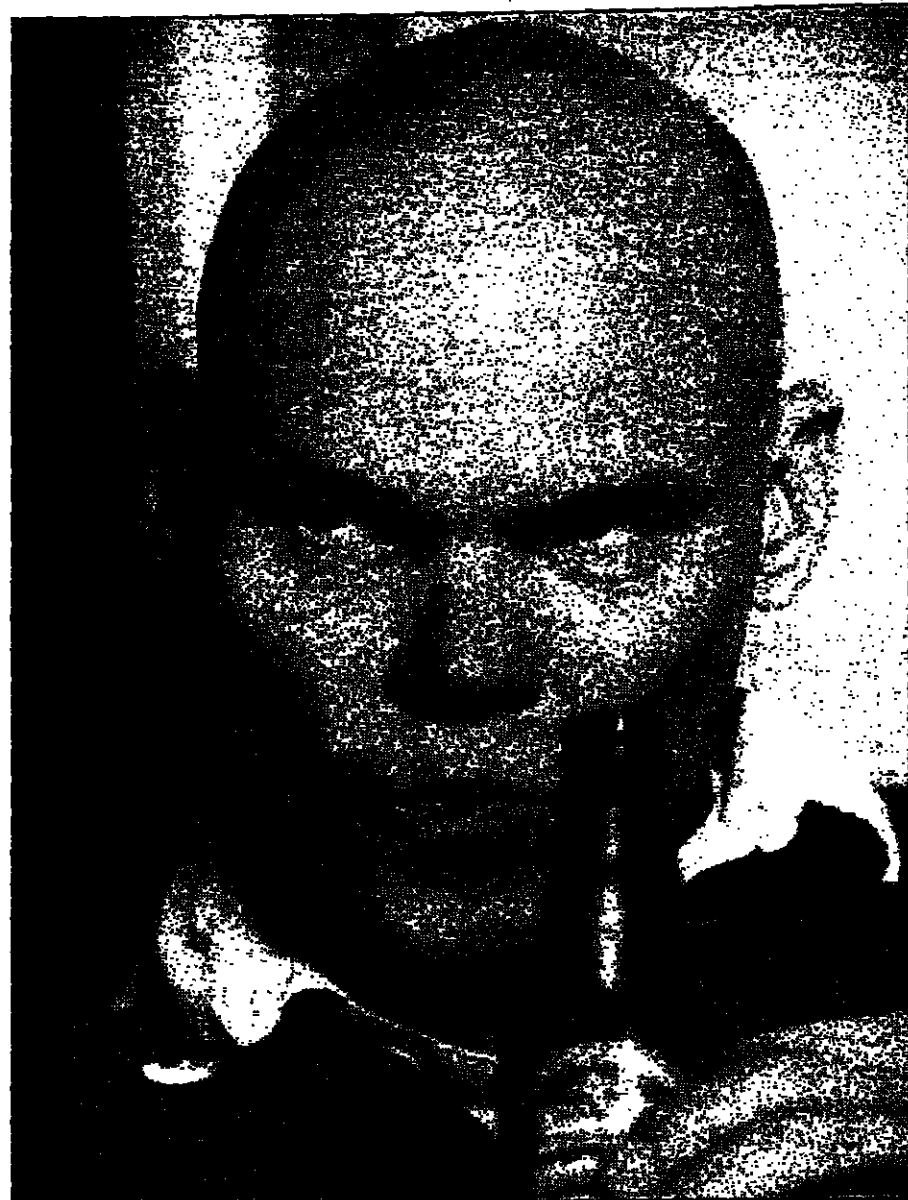
"I know the editorial writers hate that. I go about the most sacred work of democracy. All the stupid idiots who say this never put in that our retribution will be at the polling place. What do they want the president to call and ask me to do—quit trying to win elections?"

When Carville began portraying House Republicans as a partisan lynch mob for impeaching Clinton last month, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart, like Mike McCurry before him, tried to distance his boss.

"James has strong opinions, which he expresses freely," Lockhart told reporters. "He has expressed the view that this process is illegitimate and was unfair.... It's an entirely open question what his response would be if the president asked him to cease and desist."

Sometimes he goes too far, even for his commander-in-chief.

Two years ago, after Carville declared his "war" on independent counsel Starr, the president privately asked him to cool it. The Louisianaian toned it down for a while, but



Carville holding a Heineken, one of the several products he endorses: 'James lives in a border town between genius and madness,' White House adviser Paul Begala says of the campaign strategist.

(Jonathan Bloom)

Clinton later told him the attacks on Starr had been good politics.

Last fall, when Carville began beating up on then-House speaker Gingrich, aides to Minority Leader Dick Gephardt sent word that he should chill out. White House officials had Begala appeal to his old friend as well.

But Carville balked. Even if the Vatican or the World Court got involved, he told Begala, "I ain't gonna shut up."

NOT shutting up has, to put it mildly, been a good career move for Carville. His latest book, *And the Horse He Rode In On: The People Vs. Ken Starr*, reached No. 3 on the *New York Times* best-seller list.

Carville and Matalin, a veteran Republican strategist and former radio host, have combined on a hit book about their unorthodox romance, and regularly reprise their Bickerson routine on *Meet the Press*.

"Politics never bothered our relationship, but this past year has been terrible," Matalin says. "He really believes these people—my people—are out to get Clinton. He's almost Clintonesque, almost to the point that none of this would have happened if not for the evil Republicans."

Still, she says, "he knows politics works better when you have a villain. Newt goes away, you've gotta string up a new one."

"I said to him, 'You're making a fool of yourself. You're making a parody of a caricature of yourself.' But you can't argue with the guy."

Matalin says her husband is "learning disabled" and that his mind works "like a ping-pong ball."

He was, after all, kicked out of Louisiana State University (though he enlisted in the Marines, finished LSU and got a law degree there to boot).

James Carville was hardly an instant success. At 40, after a string of losing campaigns, he was depressed and out of money. But then he won a few races, signed on as Clinton's top 1992 campaign strategist and burst into the big time.

—These days, of course, he shares a sprawling Shenandoah County farm with his wife and two young daughters—they had a hog slaughter the other day—and is looking for a suitable home in suburban Alexandria, Va.

Carville and Matalin have become big-league commercial pitchmen, lending their celebrity to Alka-Seltzer, American Express, Cotton Inc. and Heineken. Carville gave 75 speeches last year, a few with his wife, for roughly \$25,000 a pop.

BUT there is an inescapable irony in this success. Since Clinton was elected, Carville—the "best campaign strategist this country has ever seen," boasts Begala—no longer plies his trade in American politics. He says he would immediately become an issue for any candidate who hired him.

"Once you become a famous person, the only way you can make a living is by being a famous person," he says.

Carville was dumped from the Democratic National Committee payroll, along with Begala and Greenberg, after the party lost Congress in 1994. Since then, he's signed a number of Democratic fund-raising letters but advises Clinton gratis.

At the moment, he is working for a presidential candidate in Argentina and for Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, after handling campaigns in Ecuador, Honduras, Brazil and Greece.

At home, he remains a ripe target for cartoonists and late-night comics. Carville was drilled when a *Washington Post* cartoon portrayed him as a Doberman, telling anyone who would listen that the paper had attacked him as a "wild animal."

Comedian Dennis Miller calls him "a snake oil salesman who actually looks like a snake." Carville's mouth can get the White House into trouble. When he famously derided Paula Jones as trailer park trash, he helped fuel her determination to press on with the sexual harassment suit that ultimately led to Clinton's impeachment.

Yet Carville is also a certified insider who regularly checks in with the White House. When Kathleen Willey was about to make her charges of presidential groping on *60 Minutes*, Clinton asked Carville whether he should release the friendly letters that Willey had written him after the alleged incident. The letters were made public the day after the broadcast.

WHEN he's not engaged in political combat, Carville occasionally surfaces in Hollywood. He's appeared in the NBC sitcom *Mad About You* and in the 1996 film *The People Vs. Larry Flynt*.

The latter role, though, has come back to haunt him. When the *Hustler* publisher began paying women for sexual dirt on Republican politicians, critics tried to tie the effort to the White House by saying that Carville had appeared in his pal's movie.

"It was not his movie, it was Milos Forman's movie," Carville says. "It was nominated for three Academy Awards."

While Flynt says they are "friends," Carville says he met Flynt once on the movie set and once a year ago while lunching at the Palm, and has never called him.

Still, Carville has passed up several televised opportunities to criticize Flynt's sex investigations. Even Matalin told her husband on *Meet the Press* that "you've been stony silent on that pornographer Larry Flynt."

Carville's view is that Hyde, DeLay and other Republicans who investigated Clinton's sex life "created" Flynt's power.

"Intelligent people should have known that you empower people like Flynt, because they said go after people's sex lives. I didn't do this. The mainstream media did this."

Pressed further, he says: "I don't have anything to do with Larry Flynt. I don't think people ought to go after people's sex lives. I don't think it's relevant. I don't try to destroy people personally—I'm trying to beat them. What in the hell could anyone find offensive about that?"

"I don't think we've seen the end of this yet. Flynt is just the tip of the iceberg.... We are in the abyss."

But Carville knows something about fighting at the bottom of the pit. He casually misses the president's affair with Monica Lewinsky as nothing more than "a grown man acting foolishly with a young woman and not wanting anybody to know about it."

He says the House Republicans who led the impeachment drive "don't care what you think. They tried to overturn the '96 election. They ignored the '98 election."

In one TV interview after another, he names names. Hyde "became a captive of the right wing." The Republicans "decided to succumb to the will of Jerry Falwell, and Bob Barr, and a 'concerned conservatives council,' or whatever this racist outfit calls themselves."

At this stage of Carville's career, it might be tempting for the millionaire strategist to relax a bit. But he is still sinking his teeth into his opponents' legs.

This is what I love and hate about him," Matalin says. "His strength is his curse."

(The Washington Post)

Racism looms again in S. African campaign

By PAUL HARRIS

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—From "lily white" sports teams to

bringing more blacks into the workplace, a series of political spots shows that South Africa's parties are growing increasingly

strident in their rhetoric about race.

The end of President Nelson Mandela's five-year term is expected to bring an end to the conciliatory approach to race that has dominated South African government since the 1994 election that ended white rule.

Mandela's likely successor, Thabo Mbeki, is already talking about how to redress decades of racial wrongs. In his speeches, Mbeki says South Africa is still "two nations"—one rich and white, the other black and poor.

Senior officials of the governing African National Congress deny they are practicing racial politics heading into elections expected to be called between April and June. They say they want to balance the wrongs of the past by redistributing resources from those who prospered under apartheid to those who suffered.

Political analysts expect race to be a major issue in the upcoming campaign.

"The ANC will attack the position of white privilege and many whites will experience that as racism. The reconciliation period is over," said Sam Pitso, a political analyst at Stellenbosch University.

Last year saw Parliament pass tough new legislation forcing companies to employ more non-whites, and Mbeki has vowed to speed up delivery of basic services to millions of poor blacks by taxing well-off whites.

In sports, the ANC has promised to draw up laws promoting non-white players on national teams.

EVEN Mandela has toughened his approach. In recent comments, he labeled mainly white opposition parties as "Mickey Mouse" groups opposed to radical change.

Terreblanche described a December meeting between Mandela and white business leaders at which the elderly leader lambasted his audience.

"They were highly critical of the ANC and Mandela was taken aback," Terreblanche said. "He was then rather sharp. He told them in no uncertain terms that the time of white privilege was over."

Opposition politicians, whose parties attract few black votes, accuse the ANC of bringing racial issues back into politics.

Douglas Gibson, a senior lawmaker from the small, liberal Democratic Party, said the ANC is too quick to play the race card in an attempt to drum up support with blacks.

"The ANC has re-racialized South Africa," he said. "If you criticize a minister for incompetence or for a mistake, they will simply say it is because you are white and defending past privilege."

Jan Momborg, one of the ANC's top parliamentary leaders, gets angry when anyone suggests his party has adopted racial politics. As a white Afrikaner who supported the ruling National Party for 30 years during the apartheid era, he says he has never come across racism in his new party, which he joined in 1992.

"I am the whip responsible for the program of legislation. Why give me that job if the ANC were a

racist party or seeking to make race an issue?" Momborg said.

While many white families live in large suburban homes, often with swimming pools and maid, most black people still live in townships and squatter camps. Only one in 20 black men earns more than \$615 a month (\$3,700 rand), while two of every three white men earn at least that much.

ANC politicians argue that it is in white people's own interest to address the balance or face an increasingly angry black underclass.

SOME political analysts see the mainly white opposition parties as being as guilty as the ANC in making race an electoral issue.

For instance, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, head of the New National Party, regularly compares the ANC to the apartheid-era incarnation of his party, a comment that is bound to increase fears of some whites that they have no place in a black-led South Africa.

"Opposition parties fan the flames in order to get white support," said Tom Lodge, a politics professor at University of the Witwatersrand.

But Lodge believes most ordinary South Africans will shrug at the race issue, as they did in 1994 when the country defied the world's grim expectations and held largely peaceful elections.

"If we left race relations to the politicians we would be in an awful mess," he said. "Ordinary people are the best to sort it out." (AP)

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Carrots count

Disk
covery

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Krav Be'heshbon (Arithmetic Battle), a CD-ROM in Hebrew and English, by Commedia, for Windows 95 or 98, for children aged 7 to 9, NIS 159.
Rating: ★★★★★

Using a carrot instead of a stick is the best way to get somebody to do something, whether you're a boss at work or a teacher at school.

So if you want a second, third or fourth grader to learn – without protest or yawns – about subtraction or multiplication of three-digit numbers, types of triangles and angles and counting backwards by thousands, make it fun.

Commedia has performed a service by presenting the basics of elementary-school arithmetic in an enjoyable form, producing an even better sequel to its previous program, for young children, **Ba'atzer Be'heshbon** as **Levi**, which is a program that switches from Hebrew to English text and voiceovers, and back with the click of the mouse. It was developed in coordination with the math curriculum taught in elementary schools.

The disk's hero is Gordy, who urges users to help him fight computer viruses by working on arithmetic problems offered at any of three levels of difficulty.

There's an excellent learning section which explains in 15 separate chapters about two-, three- and four-digit numbers; classification of objects and diagrams; types of triangles, adding and subtracting numbers horizontally, counting backwards, multiplication and other basics.

Gordy presents each lesson on a screen background of graph paper that requires the child to click the mouse to move forward or backward at his own pace; almost any child is guaranteed to understand the material after going over these lessons a few times.

The lessons are explained using tangible objects, such as a clown's hat or a goldfish's tail looking like an isosceles triangle.

The animated lessons are so clear that my almost-eight-year-old son (a whiz at arithmetic) said the disk lets him learn the rules across in much less time than math teachers in school.

Once the child has learned the principles, he or she can go on to battle the computer viruses. This challenge is accomplished through seven types of games that test comprehension of the 15 lessons; all are enjoyable.

Although meant for home use, one wishes that at the beginning of second, third or fourth grade, schoolchildren could be seated in front of a computer to play these games.

Whatever lessons all of them missed would then be eliminated from the curriculum, leaving time for more advanced work.

Jewish Calendar Program, a CD-ROM in English with optional use of any of 14 other languages, by Ulrich Greve, 23 Birkenfelder Str., 73180 Pforzheim, Germany (tel/fax 0049-7231-465681; e-mail 100734.225@compuserve.com), for teenagers and adults, \$30 plus \$5 shipping costs.
Rating: ★★★★★

In ancient times, messengers had to be sent by heads of Jewish communities to announce that the birth of a new moon had been sighted and a new Jewish month could be well-

comed. Today, of course, all one has to do is look at a Jewish calendar.

But in recent years, Jewish calendars have been technologically updated and made available to Jews throughout Israel and the Diaspora via computer programs. Not only are messengers obsolete, one can prepare for a date hundreds of years ahead, or check back to one century in the past.

A Jewish calendar on a computer program – previously reviewed positively in this column in *Jewish Times* 600-Year, Hi-Tech Interactive Hebrew Calendar, a diskette in English, with some Hebrew text, by Torah Educational Software (TES), at www.jewishsoftware.com.

The disk is also marketed by Davka (www.davka.com) under the name **Zmanim – The Hebrew Calendar**. Their prices are almost identical to this new CD-ROM, **Jewish Calendar Program**, developed by a German Jew, Ulrich Greve, but Greve's calendar has a few different features.

You can install a part of the program that shows on your computer screen, every time you turn on Windows 95 or 98, a working clock with Hebrew letters instead of Arabic or Roman numerals on its face. This clock, whose hands go counterclockwise, is similar to that on the Jewish town hall in Prague.

The program also offers a screensaver with flying Stars of David and the option of showing the current Jewish calendar date on your screen.

But the main aim of this disk is to allow you to produce calendars and save data, such as birthdays, bar mitzvas, wedding anniversaries and *yahrzeits* (anniversaries of death) and to be reminded of them.

The calendars can be produced in Hebrew, Gregorian and Islamic versions, and the names of the months and holidays may appear in Hebrew, English, German, Russian, French, Danish, Finnish, Swedish, Dutch, Spanish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Hungarian, Czech and Yiddish (each with their own fonts) or even an individual language that you design yourself.

The calendars can be customized on a daily, weekly, monthly or yearly format and printed out.

Greve's calendar, like that of Torah Educational Software and Davka, presents the Torah Portion of the Week and the haftara, and the *zmanim* (times for reciting various prayers, lighting Shabbat candles and so on), which are calculated according to 19 different rabbinical sources (compared to the TES and Davka disks' 25 different *zmanim*).

In addition to the many languages, which would be a boon to European Jews, Greve's calendars can be clicked to go left to right or right to left. The program also lists a couple of hundred cities in the world – not only those where Jews can be found but also Abu Dhabi! – so that the user can determine his residence's relation to Greenwich Mean Time and better calculate the *zmanim*.

For the user's convenience, Greve's disk lists not only Jewish holidays around the year (including Israel's Independence Day and Jerusalem Day), but also Moslem and Christian holidays and secular holidays marked in numerous European countries.

His disk also calculates when a bar mitzva will occur according to the Hebrew birth date and allows the saving of notes and export and import of files.

The only problem with Greve's CD-ROM is its required graphics resolution: 1024 by 768 pixels, which was not available on my personal computer, so bits of the program were not visible on my screen.

Let's hope that with all these digital calendars, Jews' around the world will pay more attention to Jewish time.

Mother bear must show her claws

When popular culture goes over mothers' heads to appeal to teenage girls, mom must become her daughter's ferocious, ever-vigilant protector, outspoken author Barbara Dafoe Whitehead tells Susan Reimer



They join the peer culture and mothers feel clueless and helpless. 'But they need you more than ever.' (Karen Ben-Zion)

It takes work and a thick skin to endure the fury of a young girl who isn't allowed to have, do or see the things her friends have, do and see

raised three teenagers, two of them daughters. They join the peer culture and mothers feel clueless and helpless. But they need you more than ever.

You have to be persistent and consistent. You let them try things, but you always keep them within earshot.

Whitehead says mothers must reclaim the power of parenthood. Power that has been eroded by a culture that goes over our heads to appeal to our daughters.

MOTHERS can buffer and mini-

mize these influences in a thousand little ways, but it takes work and a thick skin to endure the fury of a young girl who isn't allowed to have, do or see the things her friends have, do and see.

"We have to be secure in the knowledge that it is not a permanent rupture," Whitehead says, "amid memories of her own daughter's teen years. 'We must be the rock and be persistent and not

Whitehead writes that we must also model for our daughters attitudes and behavior that might not come easily to us: healthy eating, a cheerful acceptance of our bodies. And this generation of mothers, many of whom came of age in the sexual revolution, must get back to making moral judgments about sex.

We must also demonstrate what it means to be a faithful friend, a

member of a community and a loving partner in marriage so our daughters will learn how to behave in the world – and what treatment to expect for themselves, the report advises.

And mothers must protect their daughters from unwanted sexual attentions. This is where the mother bears shows her claws. The report stresses that parents must stop sexual teasing from the earliest age. We must never require a daughter to show physical affection for male relatives and friends.

We must protect her from the sexual attention of older boys and men.

Mothers cannot leave their daughter's sex education to the health professionals, Whitehead writes.

SEX is not just about hygiene and contraception for a girl. Sex continues to be all tangled up in her hopes and her dreams, her belief in commitment and her need for love and affection.

Sex need not be an inevitable part of her teen years if her mother makes and enforces – with firmness and love – rules about socializing and dating. And if her mother gives her the verbal tools to resist sexual pressure when she is not around.

I say mothers here because the mother is the parent who most often handles the socialization of the children. I say mothers because it is a fact that many, many children are raised in single-parent homes and that single parent is most often the mother.

So the girl whose father lives with her is doubly lucky.

"A father is the first man in a girl's life... and through the experience of being admired and cherished by her father, a daughter gains a sense of her value and worthiness as a female. She learns what it is to be faithfully loved by a man in ways that do not depend on her sexuality," Whitehead writes.

Report after report, including this one by Whitehead and Ooms, tells us that parents are the most influential figures in our children's lives.

Often, however, we are struggling with work, our own marriages or other responsibilities. Or we are overwhelmed by the complexities of an adolescence that bears no resemblance to the one we lived.

We are confused by the conflicting values among our fellow parents. Or we are defeated by the antagonism between us and our teenagers.

We don't know what to say to our daughters, and we don't know how to say it.

Keeping our daughters safe and bringing them up to be confident, contributing members of society is perhaps the most demanding and complex task of our adult lives, but we cannot give up. We owe them our very best effort.

"There are large forces out there," says Whitehead. "The mother bear is more important than ever." (The Baltimore Sun)

Save me from those terrible teens!



By Ruth Mason

Having "survived" two children's teenage syndromes, I am now well into my 15-year-old daughter's phase. Of course, I should know better by this time – but I don't! Knowing all the pitfalls, why do I feel so depressed and at an utter loss when she:

- leaves her room in a totally destructive state;
- screams at me for no apparent reason;
- takes everybody's belongings without warning and fails to return them;
- treats her younger sister badly, and, finally,
- is capable of totally ignoring me with a ruthlessness only the young can achieve.

So... help me, please! How should I feel? What should I do? A desperate Mum

Jackie Goldman, M.S., guidance counselor, Ramah Programs in Israel, replies:

First of all, I want to emphasize that the way you feel is completely appropriate. Your daughter is going through a time of change – her body, her relationship with other kids, her sexuality, her identity.

It's not an easy time for children, or for parents.

Some insight into what is going on inside your daughter may help you understand and cope.

At 15, a teenager is trying to separate herself from her parents and

become her own person. The only way she knows to do that is by trying out different behaviors and seeing how those around her respond.

Some behaviors are reinforced by the environment; others are punished or put down. In any case, your daughter is learning which behaviors work, and which don't.

Her task is to find a healthy way to develop and emerge from this process. In her eyes, this involves rejecting the close relationship with her parents, which teens tend to interpret as being dependent and "childish."

She needs not only to carve her own way, but to engage in behaviors that are going to cause that separation to take place.

What are those behaviors in her eyes? One is telling Mom, "A clean room means a lot to you. I don't want to be so closely identified with you, so I'm not going to clean my room. I don't want to fit into that perfect little-girl mold. I want to be my own individual."

That doesn't mean she's not going to want a clean room when she's 18. It means that, right now, her primary task is to develop her own identity, separate from what her parents want her to be.

You don't say enough for me to know if you feel at a loss because your daughter's way of declaring independence is different from your old kids'. It might help you to know that the things you describe – messy rooms, mood swings – are typical of the teen years.

You sound like a very capable woman, and might be feeling depressed because you see your daughter's behavior as meaning that you are not capable of raising her the way you want.

It's also clear that you have strength and insight, and that none of these tools are helping you achieve success with this daughter at this time. But hang in there, because this too shall pass.

It is very painful for a mother



Messy rooms and mood swings are typical teen behavior – but it won't last forever. (Sari Uziel)

when her child suddenly ignores her – especially if the relationship was close before. Mothers need emotional feedback as much as children. When it's withdrawn, it helps to turn to other sources, such as friends who are also mothers of teens.

Your letter indicates you have a healthy sense of humor as well as perspective; both of these are important resources.

NOW for some specific suggestions on the issues you present:

• Remember that your daughter is, in essence, the same person she was before her 13th birthday, so choose your methods of coping based on previous ways of relating to her.

If logic used to work, keep trying to use logic. If a more touchy-feely approach worked, keep on with that, even if you don't see immediate results.

I used guilt. When my teenager began picking on her younger sibling, I emphasized how much an older child's words can influence a younger one.

• It's very important to be consistent. Teenagers are testing themselves against their environment, and if the environment is constantly changing they don't have the framework they need to figure out the limits.

While no rules work all the time with a teenager, you need to be consistent so she knows you're always there for her in a strong and stable way. Consistency will also help counter a teen's tremendous feeling of instability.

• Choose your battles. If you feel that maintaining a spotless room is vital and it's okay if she ignores you once in a while, fight for cleanliness. But if giving her sister a break is less negotiable than

keeping her room clean, just keep the door to her room closed.

• Involve your daughter in issues that affect her. Say something like, "It really upsets me when you scream at me for no apparent reason – it really hurts. Let's see if we can figure out a way for you to express yourself without screaming at me."

Or reach some kind of compromise about her room together. For example, propose that by Friday her room should look decent for the weekend.

Going through a difficult stage with a child doesn't mean you're a failure as a mother. It takes time to learn a new way of relating.

Your daughter will probably outgrow her teenage years around the time you finish figuring out how to deal with them. But remember, you survived the other two's teen years. You'll survive this one's – and the next one's as well!

Corner



By Batsheva Mink

How can anyone dislike blue flowers when blue is the color of the sky? It suggests serenity, restfulness and happiness.

Blue is a most elusive color and one of the most coveted for garden plants. There are many blue plants that are really purple, violet, lavender or lilac. Then again, there are many plants that are named blue like the "blue moon" rose, which is tainted by reddish or lavender tones. There are many roses that masquerade as "blue roses" but the reality is that there are no really blue roses and very few truly blue plants.

A few years ago, one of the major rose growers in England offered £1 million for anyone who could develop a true-blue rose. So far, the prize has not been claimed.

One example of a true-blue plant, as botanists like to call them, is the delphinium.

Blue is a color that recedes from view and draws the eye beyond, rather than towards it. This can be used to an advantage in smaller gardens, creating the impression of distance.

In many old rose-garden paintings, there were always a few all-blue plants at the end of the rose garden, giving the rose garden a wider look. The plants need to be clumped together but they do not necessarily have to all be of the same shade of blue.

It is interesting to note that sunshine has a pronounced effect on blue plants, lifting the clearer blues and brightening up the reddish and gray blues.

Looking ahead to the heat of the summer, it is comforting to know that using a lot of plants with blue flowers or foliage in your garden will tend to make it appear cool and restful.

THE colors of many flowers native to the cooler part of the northern hemisphere are soft and pale, suitable for the soft light, while many of the really vibrantly colored flowers originate in hotter, sunnier climates such as that of the Mediterranean, South America or Africa, where the light is much clearer and harder.

Most flowers that appear blue also contain pigments of other colors. The pigments, called anthocyanins, are responsible for the blue, purple and red coloration in plants. Red and purple pigments are particularly common in blue flowers. Those that contain a high proportion of these pigments tend to lead your eyes inward, resulting in a feeling of sadness.

Lavenders and asters are a good example and can make your feel blue. Hence the saying, "giving you the blues." Yet a field of true-blue plants has the opposite effect.

lifting you and giving you a happy feeling. The Royal Horticultural Society in England classifies 48 different shades of blue in the plant kingdom.

To get your blue plants to stand out, it is a good idea to plant them together with contrasting colors. A clump of yellow plants next to the blue will show them up well. White is a good contrast, making true blues appear more intense. White lilies and delphiniums are a very good combination, especially at sundown.

Gray foliage can be used to highlight the blues. The hot colors of orange and red can be used to make an eye-catching combination. They need positioning in front of the blue flowers rather than behind them.

Many experienced gardeners know of the famous Himalayan blue poppy (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*) that flourishes in the gardens of the skillful and climatically blessed, but perishes for most of us, sending us forth once more on the quest for the elusive, perfect blue flower.

Unfortunately, our climate is not suitable for this magnificent plant.

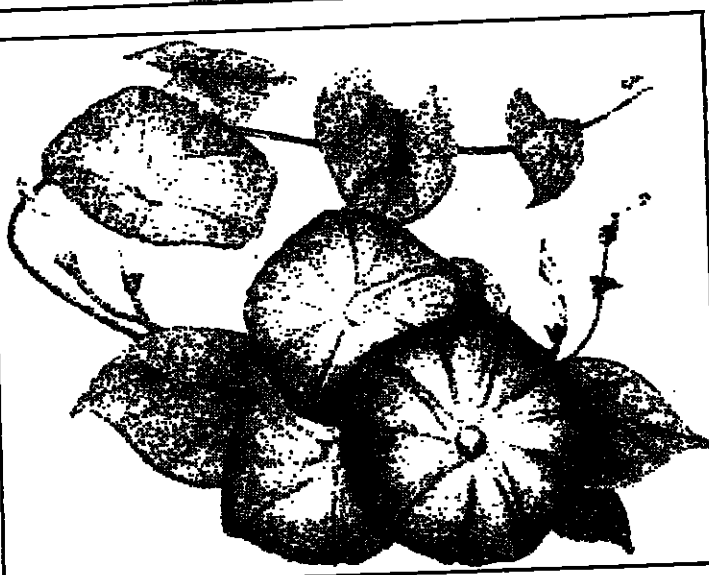
CONTRARY to belief, blue plants do exist, and among those presented here, there are sure to be some that will bring the most elegant and delicate hues to almost any garden.

• African lily or lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus praecox*; Heb. *agapantus*) This native of South Africa has long, dark-green leaves and bears lily-like blue flowers in dense clusters which make excellent cut flowers. It blooms from early June to the end of August and can be propagated by division every three years. It grows in full sun and is rarely troubled by pests and diseases.

• Pansies (*Viola wittrockiana*; Heb. *Amnon vetamur*) have become the most popular autumn, winter and spring blooming garden plants. They present many color variations including sky-blue. For a longer-lasting flowering display, it is necessary to cut away dead flowers on a regular basis to prevent them from making seeds. Keep plants from becoming untidy by regular trimming. Can be troubled by slugs.

• Delphinium and Larkspur (Lat. *Delphinium*; Heb. *durbanit*) The delphinium is a majestic plant that grows to one meter high with long stems full of flowers. Its flowers exhibit one of the few examples in the plant kingdom of a true-blue color. Delphiniums are short-lived perennials and their cousins, the Larkspurs, are annual plants. They make beautiful cut flowers for the home, and the plants will flower again if cut down soon after the flowers appear. Needs a top dressing of compost.

Grow in full sun or part shade. They also grow well in pots.



(Top and right) The lily of the Nile or *Agapanthus* blooms from early June to the end of August; (above) delicate-looking morning glory.

• The blue marguerite kingfisher daisy (*Felicia amelloides*; Heb. *felicia sichit*) has become very popular in Israel over the last few years due to its almost ever-blooming flowers. A true long-lasting perennial, growing up to 50 cms. with daisy-like blue flowers and contrasting yellow eye. Thrives in full sun. May need trimming to stop the plant becoming untidy. Rarely troubled by pests and diseases. Propagate from seed or buy ready grown plants.

• Canterbury bell (Lat. *Campanula*

medium; Heb. *pa'anoni*). The large flowers of the Canterbury bell are often seen in children's books and English cottage gardens. Colors include many shades of blue, pink and white. The plants grow up to 90 cm. tall, lending a touch to beds and borders. Flowering is from May to July, but can be prolonged all summer if the stems are cut down to mer if the stems are cut down to mer immediately after flowering. They are viable for one year only and must be renewed from seeds sown in May. Grow in full sun or partial shade.



• *Salvia farinacea* (Heb. *marva kimhit*) has spikes of clear blue flowers growing up to 60 cm. tall and flowers from June to September. Plants need to be divided every three years.

• *Plumbago capensis* (Heb. *afrit hakef*), a native of South Africa with masses of pale-blue flowers, blooms over a long period. After the flowers die in winter, give the plant a trim to tidy it up. It can be trained to grow against a wall where it can attain a height of 7 meters.

• For easily grown spring bulbs, nothing can compete with the hyacinths (Heb. *yakinton*) with their bright blue color together with their wonderful beguiling scent.

• For early spring flowering, the primula has become very popular over the last few years. It does not quite qualify for a true blue, but nevertheless the primula has a

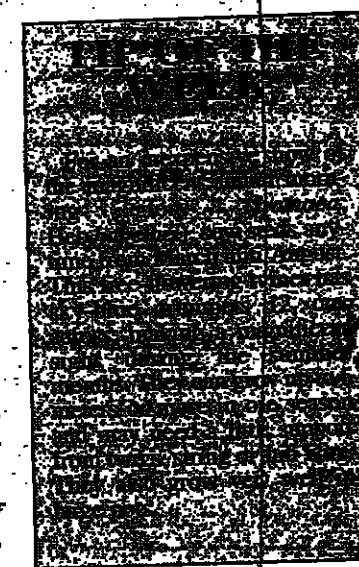
vibrant blue shade, some with a contrasting yellow eye. Flowers from January to May in cool sheltered positions.

• Lobelias (Heb. *lobelia*) are a genus of annuals from South Africa that make excellent edging plants. Can also be used in containers and hanging baskets. In shade, they tend to get a little looser in form than when grown in bright sun. Most species grow 10-15 cms.

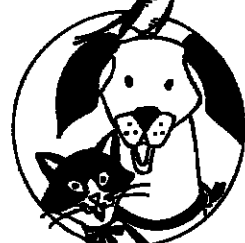
• Cornflower (*Centurea cyanus*; Heb. *dardar kahol*) is a plant native to the British Isles. One of the earliest cultivated "cottage garden" plants. Growing one meter tall, the annual cornflower remains long in bloom and few flowers can rival its rich blue colorings. Seeds should be sown from February to July.

Batsheva Mink is a curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039.



Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Over the past year there have been far too many incidents in which people have been attacked by uncontrolled dogs.

In some cases he or she was attacked directly; in others, an aggressive dog attacked another dog, and the person got involved.

Whatever the reason, the attacking dog was not on a leash, and consequently was perfectly free to do as it pleased.

Even when the owner was present, she did not have any control over the animal.

In many of these cases the dog was a rottweiler - which has given the breed a very bad name. But it is not the rottweilers who deserve the condemnation; it is their owners.

After all, when kept for the express purpose for which the breed was created and never allowed to run free in a place where they can exercise their completely normal (for the breed) instincts, rottweilers make fine, strong, protective guard dogs.

Recently, there have been moves to pass laws that would curtail rottweiler ownership and make it necessary for a person to have a special permit in order to own such a dog.

When an MK approached me with this suggestion, I laughed. "How," I asked him, "do you expect to enforce this law?"

"I am quite certain that the police and the bureaucrats who issue licenses for firearms know a lot more about guns than they do about dogs. Yet they cannot even handle the simple matter of keeping guns out of the hands of violent and even psychopathic people."

"Every few months we read of a person with a long, psychiatric history of instability and violence using a licensed weapon to create

Punish the owner, not the dog



MEIR ROSENBERG

havoc - often resulting in one or more deaths.

"If the authorities cannot control the licensing of guns, about which they do, presumably, know something, how can they possibly decide on the fitness of a person to keep a dog - about which, in almost all cases, they know absolutely nothing?"

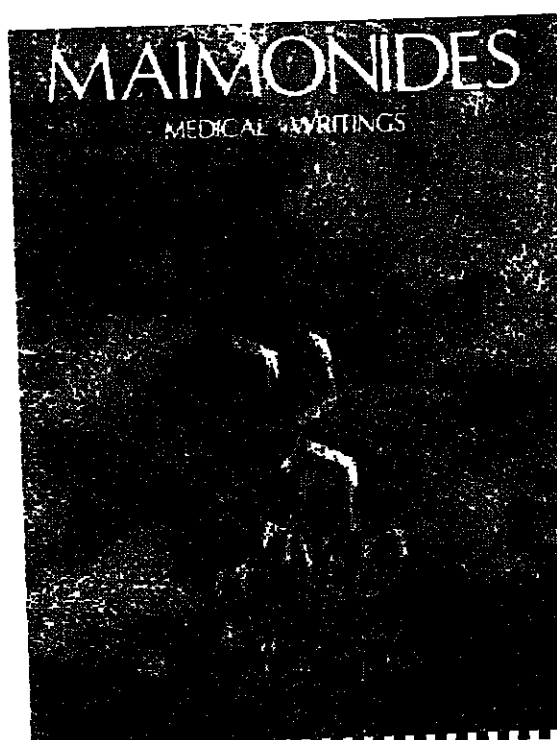
IT would be a far better move to

enforce the leash and muzzle laws to the point where it hurts - where all unconfined animals may be sent to the pound, and, in the case of dangerous animals, not returned to their owners on payment of a fine, but given to the IDF or the police for their needs.

Furthermore, the owner of any unrestrained animal causing bodily harm should face a mandatory criminal charge and a prison sentence.

These laws would be far easier to enact than some half-baked attempt to regulate the ownership of certain breeds.

Of course, one could destroy all the animals of the breed and forbid their ownership entirely, as is done in some places. But this would be unfair to an animal whose only crime has been to fall into the hands of irresponsible owners.



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the blue



Young, pretty and going places

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

She has a riot of black curls, wears very little make-up, carries a violin and is all set to become a star. American violinist Hilary Hahn looks a whole lot younger than her 19 years. Which is why she made a point of stating her age. "In my last recital tour I was presented as anything between 16 and 20. Because I look much younger anyway, I want everyone to know how old I really am."

She is making her local debut tomorrow evening playing Mozart and Brahms with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA.

There is something captivating about Hahn – an undaunted mixture of the girlish and the mature adolescent.

And she seems to know exactly what she wants.

"Just three weeks before I was four," she recalls as if it just happened a few hours ago. "I was walking with my father and suddenly we saw a sign about music lessons for four-year-olds. We went in and there was this little boy there playing 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' on his tiny violin. I liked it and wanted to do the same."

She is candid enough to admit that "had this boy played the cello I would have probably become a cellist, and had he been playing soccer, I might have ended up doing just that."

Playing "Twinkle Twinkle" on her own violin was not so exciting, Hahn confesses. "It was a very long song and I didn't like to play all of it. At the beginning I never practiced for more than five minutes a day. But when I was 10 my practice periods grew to three hours a day and now I practice between three and five hours a day."

Hahn realized she wanted to be serious about the violin when she turned eight, and at 10 she entered the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia (from where she will graduate with her bachelor's degree in music in a few months). Reading, writing and arithmetic she studied through a special Baltimore school program which allowed children to study at home. By 12, Hahn had already made

her major orchestral debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Currently she has three different managers but she adamantly argues that "I make all the decisions regarding how much I play, where I play and what it is that I play."

THERE is one word that Hahn almost detests – prodigy. "I never had a prodigy career. A prodigy is someone who at the age of 10 or 11 starts touring extensively all over the world. I never did that, my career developed much more slowly."

When she was 16 Hahn signed an exclusive contract with Sony and her first recording was a disc featuring two partitas and one sonata by Bach, quite an undertaking for any violinist. "It made the most sense for me. I have played Bach since my first recital at age 10. I love this music and it's solo playing – the perfect stuff for a debut album."

Hahn is a graceful violinist whose music has a warm sound that envelops the listener. She is also a graceful young lady who prefers not to glamorize her image on album jackets. In the engaging photos she chooses for her jackets Hahn emerges as sensual and beautiful, yet very serious. The photos buck the trend and suggest that Hahn is a young woman who is not given to compromising what is most important to her – music.

She has no problem, however, with the way other musicians present themselves. "Everyone is welcome to make their own image as long as they are happy with it. I personally will not wear a white T-shirt on a disc cover."

Despite her seriousness, Hahn does not make the violin her life. She goes to movies, she rides her bike, and she even takes ballet classes. She is eager to study languages, and immediately shifts our discussion to the nature of the Hebrew language – its origins, characteristics and the fact that, "yes, you do read and write it backwards."

The one thing she would not discuss was her private life, but the fact that her father travels with her around the world is well known.



Violinist Hilary Hahn much prefers the Mozart she plays now to 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.'

"He helps me with the little daily things so that I can concentrate on what is really important – playing the violin."

She isn't really thinking about becoming a wife or mother and, when asked about boyfriends she smiles shyly and says, "well, that is

really private and I would like to keep it that way."

"I love what I do," Hahn candidly admits, "so it's not hard at all. I do a lot of new things, there's a lot of constant change in my life and I like it, there's always something interesting."

Asked to describe herself, she simply says, "I go around being me."

Hilary Hahn plays the Brahms and the Fifth Mozart Violin Concerto with the JSO at the Jerusalem International Convention Center tomorrow at 8:30 p.m.

Going Bach to basics

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Two of the leading Bach ensembles in Israel this week record regularly. Ton Koopman has recorded many of Bach's works for the Erato label as he works on a huge project of recording the entire Bach cantatas with his Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Chorus.

His recording of the four suites (Bach, 4 Orchestral Suites, Erato 0630-17868-2) brings a fresh and dramatic interpretation to these four very popular orchestral suites. Koopman brings that same invigorating combination to his recordings of the cantatas.

The various multi-disc albums feature an average of eight cantatas per album, with soloists and Koopman's own forces.

If you don't buy the set, two of the best bets are the fourth volume (Bach Complete Cantatas, Volume 4, Erato 0630-15562-2), with very dramatic renditions of BWV 198 and 211, and the seventh volume (Bach Complete Cantatas, Volume 7, Erato 3984-23141-2).

All Koopman's major Bach recordings on Erato are discounted this week in honor of the ensemble's debut here.

LISTENING to Koopman conduct Bach one has a feeling of a huge drama unfolding in a rather serene and poetic manner.

Masaaki Suzuki's Bach Collegium Japan, however, provokes a different feeling. When you hear Suzuki's musical forces – orchestra and chorus alike – it seems as if you are engulfed by a mystical religious experience in which you are part of the presentation.

This is another project aimed at recording the entire Bach cantatas, this time on the BIS label, and in individual albums featuring around four cantatas each.

The first volume of this collection (Bach Cantatas: Bach Collegium Japan, Volume 1, BIS 7 318590 007518) was sold for a relatively low price in Israel over the past year or so and it features eight exciting bonus tracks from other

Suzuki releases.

Among the most recommended volumes in this collection is the fifth one (Bach Cantatas: Bach Collegium Japan, BIS 7 318590 008416) in which I was particularly touched by sheer beauty and refinement of BWV 152 and 143.

THE Cantus Collin CDs introduce unfamiliar choral music dating from just prior to Bach's time. Here is a much smaller ensemble playing early music with true style and panache and at the same time adding masses of new works to the existing repertoire.

Among the 20 Cantus Collin discs on the market, Thomaskantoren vor Bach (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi 05472 77203 2) showcases eight works by almost totally unknown composers like Sebastian Knupfer and Johann Schelle, as well as Johann Kuhnau, whose music is as engaging, poetic and dramatic as that of Bach's even if it lacks Bach's very special imprint of genius and invention.

Also enriching are the five sacred pieces by Johann Rosenmüller (Johann Rosenmüller: Sacri Concerti, Deutsche Harmonia Mundi 05472 77181 2), another 17th-century composer whose rich musical texture is quite a revelation.

French pianist Helene Grimaud unfortunately canceled her scheduled concert with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, but we have her discs, each of which reveals one of the most sensational pianists of our generation.

Helene Grimaud: Gershwin, Ravel (Erato 0630-19571-2) reveals in combining Gershwin's essence with his spontaneous freshness.

Her rendition of Gershwin's F major concerto sizzles, while the Ravel concerto (which she should have played in Haifa) is one of the most dramatic, technically faultless and exhilarating renditions of the concerto I have heard in a long while.

Grimaud is a born romantic who can delve much deeper into the real nucleus of the music she performs and present it in a most enriching, penetrating and revealing way.

A Thorn bringing roses

By HELEN KAYE

"Spotting Jews is what I do every time I enter a room measuring safety in outward manifestations of identity."

It's about constantly looking for other Jews to identify with in the Diaspora," says Leah Thorn of the poem she calls "Jew-spotting." She offers the explanation half hesitantly, the laugh-lines around lively blue-green eyes crinkling in acknowledgment of the "good Lord, you don't look Jewish," comment she's heard so many times.

She doesn't. Her nose is as "un-Jewishly" perfect as one seen in a plastic surgeon's catalog. Her short hair is blonde, her figure model slim.

Yet being Jewish, actively living and seeking out her Jewishness, is the bedrock of who she is and what she does.

Thorn, 49, is a performance poet, doing a seven-month residency of writing, performances and workshops at the World Union of Jewish Students headquarters in Arad.

The two-part program she's doing at the Yakar Center in Jerusalem tomorrow is called "Witness My Life."

"The first part deals with being a working-class English Jew and a woman," she says. "The second part is extracts from I Place My Stones about my identity as the daughter of a Holocaust survivor." And that is where it all started.

Thorn's mother, Laura, was one of the Kindertransport children, sent by their parents to England in 1938 and '39 to escape the tightening Nazi noose. The rest of her family "didn't make it, and to this day Mummy talks very little about it. Certainly there was this big gap, this silence during my childhood. Maybe that's why I talk about it in my performances."

Performance poetry is a growing genre in Europe, but "when I tell people what I do, they look at me queerly. Then I do a poem and smiles break out." She defines her work as "writing poetry for its sound, for the breathline and for the theater of it. My presence is part of that performance. It wouldn't feel right to me if someone else did it."

THORN was born in Leytonstone, which she describes as a white, gentle working-class area. Later, she and her parents moved to "the upwardly mobile Jewish working-class area of Gants Hill. My father, now 85, was a tailor. My mother is 75 – she'd hate it that I'm telling you her age."

Thorn trained as a psychologist and worked for years with the Inner London Education Authority until Margaret Thatcher scrapped it in 1990 and Thorn's job disappeared too.

Devastated by her job loss, "I went to an astrologer. I don't know why, because I'd always pooh-poohed that kind of thing before. She asked me one question – 'where's your creativity?' – and I burst into tears."

A friend suggested she try writing "and what came out was poetry. I started to perform after visiting with [another] friend who is a performance poet, and the fusion of poetry and my first love, drama, excited me."

She used her severance pay to finance an intense theater course and her first public performance was at a women's cafe whose name she's forgotten. Her most recent gig was for Amnesty International in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She has performed all over the UK, in Ireland, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and now she's here.

"There are quite a few performance poets in the UK," she says. "But I think that I'm the only Jewish one on the circuit. I thought that my being Jewish would only interest other Jews, but it's not so. I have Jewish material and I get invited on the strength of that."

Israel, Thorn says, is an amazing experience but, because of her partner in the UK, immigration doesn't seem to be in the cards.

One of the two poems she's written here seems to sum up both sets of ties. It "combines my bits of Hebrew with my poor e-mail capabilities."

TV's doctors don space suits

By GREG BRAXTON

HOLLYWOOD – Chicago Hope and ER are in a space jam.

Producers of CBS's Chicago Hope, who have been steadily building a story line that will put former chief of surgery Kate Austin (Christine Lahti) into space as a shuttle payload specialist by the end of the season, are seeing stars over a similar plot line that has suddenly popped up on NBC's ER.

In last week's ER installment, attending physician Mark Greene (Anthony Edwards) learned of NASA's interest in him as a payload specialist on an upcoming shuttle flight. Producers and others at Chicago Hope say it appears that there is now a space race to see which of the two medical dramas can put a doctor into orbit first.

"We're pretty dismayed over here that all of a sudden they come up with the same story line," said one Chicago Hope insider. "A lot of us were outraged."

Bill D'Elia, one of the executive producers for Chicago Hope, conceded he was taken aback by the similarities. "[It's] amusing and surprising that all of the stories in the universe, we could share something that is so out there as an idea in the first place," D'Elia said.

Sources at the show said they heard that ER had been consulting with National Aeronautics and Space Administration executives, as well as legendary astronaut John Glenn.

However, D'Elia and others stopped short of accusing ER of co-opting the astronaut idea. "I don't believe anyone from ER is watching our show and saying, 'Hey, that's a good idea, let's do that.' I can't believe that, and I won't allow myself to believe it. Something is going on, but I don't think anyone is copying anyone."

Noting that ER is TV's most popular series, D'Elia added: "It's not like they need our help. We're a bit, but they get huge ratings."

If Greene, who is one of ER's anchors, is getting ready to blast

off, those associated with the show are keeping mum. ER producers refused to even address the similarity, declining any comment. A spokesman for Warner Bros. Television, which produces the series, downplayed the significance of any parallels between the two stories.

THE shows have often been talked about in the same breath, despite their numerous differences. The comparisons began when they premiered on the same night at the same time in 1994. Both are set in Chicago hospitals, and are populated with characters ranging from sympathetic and considerate to combative and abrasive.

The two shows have at times shared plot lines. Chicago Hope insiders recalled episodes, which aired close together in early 1996, that involved physicians being held hostage in grocery stores by gunmen.

Co-producer Jan Olexberg came up with the concept of Austin going into space when the

Chicago Hope writers and producers convened last June to come up with ideas for the new season. The groundwork was laid in an episode in which Austin treated former astronaut Gordon Mays (Chris Sarandon), who was suffering an irregularity in his heart.

In later episodes, Mays, who was scheduled to go back into space, suffered a heart attack and was told he could no longer travel on the shuttle. He was instructed by NASA to name his replacement. Austin, seeking a new challenge and taken by Mays's descriptions of his adventures in space, asked him to nominate her. Her decision prompted anger from hospital management, who demoted her.

On ER recently, Greene told his colleagues that he had applied for the space program during his second year of residency, and made the first cut. He tried to defer because his then-wife was just entering law school and his daughter was still in diapers. The issue is expected to come up again in future episodes.

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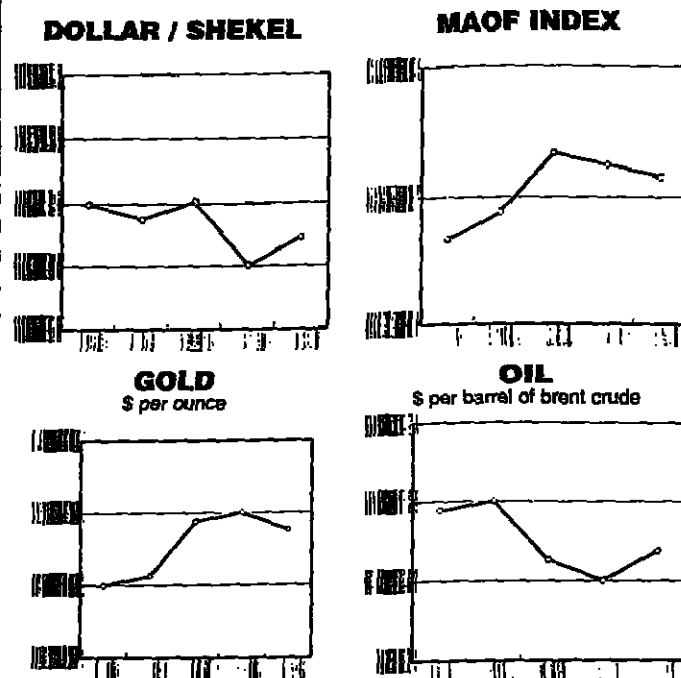
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MARKETS

in brief



Idan Ofer to become Israel Corp. chairman

Idan Ofer will replace Erwin Eisenberg as chairman of the board of the Israel Corporation, a spokesman for the Ofer Group said yesterday. Last week the Ofer brothers, Sami and Yuli, finalized a deal to purchase the Eisenberg family's 53 percent stake for \$330 million. Idan, 43, is the son of Sami Ofer and was active in his father's shipping activities abroad. He will join the Israel Corp. once the deal is finalized within three months. In a press conference earlier this week, Sami Ofer said that Idan, who lives overseas, would return to Israel once the deal is completed. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

RadGuard, Japan's Toyo ink marketing deal

By NICKY BLACKBURN

RadGuard, a leader in the secure virtual private network market (VPN), yesterday signed a strategic marketing agreement worth over \$3 million with Japanese systems integrator Toyo Corporation.

The new agreement, which combines RadGuard's secure VPN solutions with Toyo's marketing and support capabilities, will give Japanese Fortune 1000 companies and government agencies the knowledge base and assistance network from which to implement large-scale secure VPNs.

As part of the deal, Toyo, which is to become the company's master distributor in Japan, will create a \$3 million VPN knowledge bank from which marketing activities and support services will be built in order to develop comprehensive market presence.

Toyo also will embark on a market-wide educational campaign in order to raise the business community's awareness of the cost saving and enhanced security features of VPN technologies.

Kozoh Yumoto, president of

Toyo said he chose RadGuard, which is part of the Rad Group and is based in Savoy near Tel Aviv, because its products offered features required by Japanese enterprises.

Over the last two years, RadGuard has established a strong market presence in Japan through two distributors, CJK and Terilog, and through a number of value-added resellers.

Last month the company also received an undisclosed injection of funds from Jafco, a major Japanese venture capital fund.

Elad Shaviv, RadGuard's VP of sales and marketing said the new deal will improve RadGuard's Japanese presence substantially.

"Toyo has demonstrated a unique ability to introduce new technologies into Japan and to provide technical support on the scale that large enterprises require," he said.

"We view our new relationship with Toyo as an important step in taking our well-established Japanese market presence to a new level. We are also confident it will contribute to efforts throughout the Far East."

Debt-ridden Nissan mulls foreign controlling stake

TOKYO (Bloomberg) — Nissan Motor Co. said it is prepared to let a foreign rival take a controlling stake, a move that will make it more attractive to Renault, SA and DaimlerChrysler AG, which are seeking to invest in Asia.

Japan's second-largest carmaker would consider selling more than a third of its stock to a foreign automaker, giving it the "right" to management control, said Nissan president Yoshikazu Hanawa. Nissan needs cash to repay some 4.3 trillion yen in debt, the most of any carmaker.

A controlling stake could encourage France's Renault or Germany's DaimlerChrysler to invest in Nissan as it would make it easier to turn around the unprofitable carmaker. Renault said yesterday it is in talks with Nissan and is interested in an equity stake. DaimlerChrysler has indicated it is interested in both Nissan's car and truck unit.

"None of the companies that are said to be looking at Nissan have a real presence in Asia, and that alone makes it an interesting partner," said Simon Miller, a car industry analyst with Credit Lyonnais Securities in London.

The automakers are mainly interested in Nissan's factories and sales outlets in Asia, where they hope to expand. Nissan has 22 factories outside of Japan, including 10 in Asia, such as in Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam.

"Technology is another factor, since Nissan's UK plant is said to be one of the world's most efficient," said Credit Lyonnais' Miller. "But the real question is: What exactly are you going to have control over, and is it going to be worth controlling?"

DaimlerChrysler shares fell 1.10 percent to 90.10 euros. Renault shares rose 3.33% to 45.25 euros. Nissan shares closed down 8 yen

at 408. For Nissan, the move would give it cash to repay its bank debt, which has so far deterred foreign carmakers from investing in the Japanese company.

Who actually runs Nissan could prove to be an obstacle, given that the company has been independent for nearly 70 years. The *Nihon Keizai* newspaper, citing unnamed Nissan executives, said the company could sell up to just under half its shares if it meant retaining management control.

Nissan "wants to have its cake and eat it," said Christopher Richter, auto analyst at HSBC Securities Japan Ltd., who has a "hold" rating on the stock. "I don't think anybody's going to want to take that kind of high share without having substantial management control."

One precedent for Nissan to consider could be Isuzu Motors Ltd., which continues to run itself even though General Motors Corp., the world's largest automaker, owns a 49% stake.

Nissan, the maker of Altima sedans and Pathfinder sport-utility vehicles, would be the third Japanese automaker to come under foreign control. In addition to GM's stake in Isuzu, Ford Motor Co. owns 33.4% of Mazda Motor Corp., Japan's fifth-largest automaker. Mazda's president, chief financial officer, and about a quarter of its directors come from Ford.

Nissan operates some of the world's most efficient factories, according to a report from the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit in October.

Hanawa continued to deny that the automaker is in talks to sell a stake. "We're not in capital alliance talks," with any foreign automakers about taking a stake in Nissan, though "if somebody approaches us, we would seriously consider it," he said.

Paz to be sold to Public Investments

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The sale Paz Oil Company to Public Investments' Michael Dorsman and Hanan Ben-Yehuda is expected to be signed early next week, a source close to the deal said yesterday.

The source said that, according to the agreement, the heirs of Australian-Jewish investor Jack Liberman would receive \$400 million for their controlling interest. The price is some \$50m. lower than the \$450m. asked for when the negotiations

started two months ago.

A spokesman for Public Investments said the deal would be finalized soon. He added that representatives of Chase Manhattan Bank arrived yesterday to discuss the final financing of the deal. Other foreign banks are expected to form a consortium to finance the deal.

Once the deal is completed, Dorsman and Ben-Yehuda intend to approach Claridge Israel, which is controlled by the Bronfman family, and offer to acquire its 30% stake in Paz.

The Liberman family, together with Zaidik Bino, holds 63% of the fuel company through Aura Investment. The remaining 7% is held by Paz CEO Mordechai Ben-Shach who is expected to remain in his position.

In the past, Dorsman — son-in-law of shipping magnate Ted Arison, who last year purchased a controlling stake in Bank Hapoalim — said the Arison group is not involved in the deal and that he intends to finance the acquisition from Public Investments' own resources.

It is widely believed, however, that the fact that Dorsman is a member of the Arison family will help him raise the capital he needs.

Paz was founded in 1922 as the Anglo-Asiatic Petroleum Company and was renamed the Shell Company of Palestine before becoming Paz in 1958.

The company is involved in every aspect of the petroleum industry and has some 20 subsidiaries.

In 1997, it had pre-tax sales of \$1.3 billion.

Boeing nixes purchase of Rada stake

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Aerospace giant Boeing has decided not to purchase a 42 percent stake in Rada Electronic Industries, the companies announced yesterday in a joint statement.

Last March, Boeing announced it was willing to pay \$10m. to become the largest shareholder in the Herzliya-based company. The talks with Rada's previous management had reached a deadlock and in July both companies agreed to extend the deadline for finalizing the deal. As part of an attempt to meet Boeing's demands, Rada announced a reorganization plan that included the resignation of Haim Nissenson, president and CEO of the company since 1980.

Boeing has decided now, however, not to purchase a stake in the maker of aircraft test equipment and electronic systems. In their statement the companies said that, "at this point, both parties agree that a passive equity investment is not the best way to create a strategic advantage in the global avionics test equipment markets."

The companies added, however, that they will continue looking for alternative ways to work together.

Rada's president and CEO Herzl Bodinger said he does not know why Boeing decided not to acquire the company. He added that the original agreement was signed with Boeing Enterprises, a Boeing subsidiary formed to invest in companies outside the United States. However, Boeing last September decided to close down its subsidiary as part of a reorganization program.

Despite its decision not to become a shareholder, the world's largest passenger plane manufacturer is still considering using Rada's commercial aviation testing systems (CATS) for civilian aircraft.

"If Boeing decides to use our equipment, it's even better for us than if they become a partner," Bodinger said. "Such a move would give a strong promotion to our marketing." The market for the CATS systems, which shorten testing times from several days to a matter of hours, is about \$1 billion.

Such a deal is of vital importance for Rada, as its main competitor is France's aerospace and defense company Aerospatiale, which holds a 37.9% stake in Airbus Industrie, Boeing's largest business rival.

Rada, in conjunction with subsidiaries in the US and Europe, develops, manufactures, and markets electronic equipment for the aerospace and commercial aviation markets.

Established in 1970 in Haifa, the company focused in the past on supplying systems to the Israel Air Force. Since 1990 the company has offered its products to world airlines. Rada employs 100 workers, of which some 80 work in its Beit She'an factory.

At Home to buy Excite for \$6.7b. in stock as AT&T expands Internet business

By KEVIN REYNOLDS

REDWOOD CITY, California (Bloomberg) — AT Home Corp., an Internet access provider soon to be controlled by AT&T, agreed to acquire No. 2 Internet search service Excite Inc. for about \$6.7 billion in stock.

AT Home will issue 1.04 of its shares for each share of Excite, or about \$106.27 a share, a 57 percent premium to Excite's closing price on Friday. At Home's largest shareholder is Tele-Communications Inc., a cable television company that AT&T will acquire this quarter.

The purchase fits AT&T chairman C. Michael Armstrong's strategy of expanding the No. 1 long-distance telephone company's Internet business by combining Excite's World Wide Web sites with AT Home's high-speed cable hookups. At Home also will add Excite's estimated 17 million users and its advertisers.

"For AT Home, the way to make money is to attract advertising revenue by getting eyeballs through a search engine such as Excite," said Peter Gartzon, an Internet commerce analyst at Dataquest Inc. in London. "It also positions AT Home better to get a portion of future commerce transactions."

Excite shares surged 34 5/8 to 102 1/8 in early trad-

Fighting Net piracy

French composer Jean-Michel Jarre (center) delivers a petition with 500 signatures of recording artists asking the European Parliament to protect musical works from piracy on the Internet, to Liberal European MP Willy De Clerck (left) in Brussels yesterday. At right is socialist lawmaker Nana Mouskouri. Artists such as Boyzone, Robbie Williams, the Corrs, Barbara Hendricks, Eros Ramazzotti, Roxette, and Patricia Kaas were among the signatories. (AP)

Treasury warns against excessive short-term shekel savings plans

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The high interest rates offered by the banking industry in the framework of short-term, shekel-denominated saving plans are likely to result in a run on the shekel once the tide turns and rates fall, Treasury director of national revenues Tsipi Galyan warned yesterday.

In a written analysis of recent economic developments, she called for an easing of the Bank of Israel's tight monetary policy, but also warned against raising the official inflation target, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has recently said he would like to do, an intention which he has since then reportedly abandoned.

October's sharp interest rate hikes, which added up to 4 percent within two weeks, were effective in momentarily stemming the effect of the Russian crisis of the time, but maintaining the high rates in the long term might prevent the formation of a stable equilibrium in the financial markets, and ultimately weigh on the overall effort to accelerate growth, according to Galyan.

Galyan also warned against the general sense of uncertainty, which has accelerated considerably since the early elections were called.

The Knesset's failure to pass the budget and the budget arrangement bill are now coupled with the global economic crisis, which is making it more difficult for exporters to sell in des-

tinuations where average purchasing power has been seriously hampered. The sense of uncertainty is further exacerbated by currencies, such as the shekel, being exposed more than ever before to sudden capital movements generated by international currency traders, she said.

The conventional wisdom, that election-related, unaffordable budgeting would have a limited impact on the economy since the new government would quickly undo such commitments, is not entirely acceptable, wrote Galyan. While this may prove true, the economy is paying a price as budgetary planning becomes subject to short-term changes.

Clal Elect. sells AGI stake for \$10m.

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Clal Electronics Industries, a subsidiary of Clal Industries and Investments, has sold its 42 percent stake in AG Associates Israel (AGI) to Germany's Stieg Electronic Systems for \$10 million.

The deal is part of a wider transaction in which Stieg will acquire AGI's parent company, AG Associates (AGA), for \$60m.

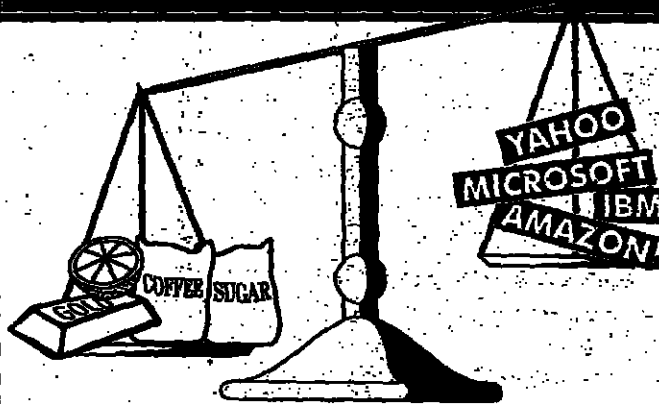
AGI was established four years ago as a research and development center for San Jose California based AGA, which was founded by Arnon Gat, an Israeli living abroad.

Clal also holds a 9% stake in AGA, a maker of computer-chip

manufacturing equipment, for which it is expected to report a capital gain of some NIS 10m. Clal said it expects another capital gain of some NIS 30m. in the first half of the year from the sale of AGI once the deal is completed.

In a separate announcement Clal Israel, the parent company of Clal Industries and Investments, yesterday announced it has purchased Adanet Communications from IIS Intelligent Information Systems for an undisclosed sum. Sources close to the deal said, however, that Clal would pay some NIS 15m. for 90 percent of the company. They added that the other 10% were sold to Adanet's management.

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So what if they buy us

Foreign takeovers of high-tech companies should be welcome

OPINION

In general, there is nothing inherently bad about the sale of Israeli companies to foreign companies, neither from a national nor from an individual perspective. These transactions do not constitute a "brain drain." Of course, the era of slavery has long passed from the world. If the workers are not satisfied with the new management, they are free to leave and even to establish new companies, which may even be sold again.

The question to ask is why it is almost impossible to hire workers away from companies like Cisco or Microsoft. The answer is that the option programs, salaries and general working atmosphere at such companies are so good employees don't want to leave. It is no coincidence that those companies have created thousands of millionaires, and even several billionaires among their own workers.

Israeli firms, meanwhile, do not adequately compensate their workers, largely due to limitations enacted by the Securities Exchange Commission.

Investors, including the entrepreneur, receive hard cash for their investment (unless the transaction is, for shares). A public offering, on the other hand, can be much more problematic for the investors, entrepreneurs, and managers after a relatively long period of growth and stability.

The example of the RAD Group is instructive.

Was the sale of Radnet for \$75 million worse for the investors and entrepreneurs than Radcom's or Kir's public stock offerings? From a national perspective, qualified managers and development staffs are our most precious resource. The question therefore is how to maximize their work value.

The value created by a company is the added value – salaries and profit – in addition to the terminal value, i.e. the sale value of the company, or the current value of its stock market valuation after its stabilization.

I have not seen any serious research comparing which of the following three models bring the maximum return: public stock offerings, selling the company, or branching into international companies, such as Intel and Microsoft.

If I had to guess, I would say that the outright sale of a company brings the best return.

For example, Biosense and Mirabilis were both sold for sums of close to \$0.5 billion, even before either of these had generated significant sales. There are almost no start-up companies (firms less than 10 years old) on the stock exchange with a market value close to these.

The concept of abandoning Israeli-based manufacturing is also no longer sacred.

One of the conditions for the chief scientist's support is that the manufacturing must be done domestically. This is an obsolete approach which harms the companies themselves, since it is virtually impossible to compete with production costs in the Far East.

In addition, why manufacture tires in the first place? Is this a modern version of the 1960s Taipei approach which established textile factories in order to provide jobs? That resulted in nothing more than "white elephants" which have us foundering in the mud to this day.

Manufacturing should be located wherever in the world it can be done most cheaply. Obviously, there are products whose manufacturing capacity should be retained domestically for national

strategic reasons, but these are the exceptions to the rule.

ABOVE and beyond the considerations of all the various interest groups, one must remember that we are living in a global village. Consolidation through the acquisition of smaller companies by larger ones is a worldwide trend, because it is difficult for a small company to sell by itself strategic products to its customers. As such, a firm manufacturing computer telecommunications products will have a hard time competing with Cisco. If they have a unique product they may at first succeed. However, Israeli companies will not be able to provide total, long-term solutions to their customers.

Therefore, the best way to realize a company's value is via outright sale. And this should be done sooner rather than later, before its competitors catch up to it, thus eliminating its competitive edge.

The harsh reality is that out of the thousands of high-tech start-up companies in existence today, only hundreds will succeed, and most of them will be purchased. Moreover, it is extremely difficult to manage a leading global company from Israel. Veritas is

possible, but the management of such a company must be able to think globally. In other words, it must hire world-class managers, establish subsidiaries in the primary markets and grow through the purchase of other companies.

Presently, the number of real global leaders in Israel is low, and includes Scitex, Orbotech, ESC Medical, Galileo, Gilat and Checkpoint. Their lives, however, are not easy, due to the constant threat of giants entering the competitive arena and bullying them out of center stage.

The answer to the question concerning the future of all those who cannot work in high tech, those whose livelihoods are based on manufacturing and production, is the model of "From Zion shall go forth the Torah."

Israeli high-tech companies should generally work with their heads, developing new and innovative "patents." Manufacturing, a difficult and often pollution-intensive task, should be subcontracted to others. Marketing, again, should also be done by others or via the Internet, with distribution through Federal Express or its equivalents. The entrepreneurs will then be able to sit next to their

computers and count the money.
What about everything else?

Don't worry. First, we are far from exhausting all of our human potential. From a talent perspective, it is possible to increase the reserves of high-tech workers. The demand for them is global, and foreign companies with development centers in Israel will absorb an unlimited number of talented workers.

The problem lies, obviously with our archaic education system. What will the others do? Since "he who works in grinding gold may collect crumbs of gold," it follows that working in high-tech-related services is preferable to manufacturing textiles in, say, Yeroham.

Utopia? Perhaps, but it is attainable. The value created by the high-tech industries in the US is significantly higher than that of the worldwide automotive industry. Most of it derives from "brain" work and not manufacturing, and we are in an excellent position to be part of the greatest creation of capital-wealth in history.

The writer is chairman of Jerusalem Global Ltd. and a managing partner at Concord Ventures.

MUTUAL FUNDS

[illegible]

Fund's name	redemption unit cost	monthly price (yield)	yield 1996 (%)	N asset (millions)	
Fidelity T&I 100	2081.06	2069.53	+1.01	+0.01	47.5
Fidelity T&I 200	1530.95	1515.00	+0.35	+0.35	19.5
Fidelity T&I 300	1054.16	1044.28	+0.28	+0.28	12.8
Fidelity T&I 400	163.74	163.20	-0.30	-0.30	12.3
Fidelity Technology	375.90	374.73	+0.36	+0.36	71.4
Fidelity Energy	595.56	587.31	+0.47	+0.47	20.0
Evergreen High Tech.	383.93	382.57	+0.43	+0.43	14.2
Investment Services	777.72	777.32	+0.19	+0.19	8.2
Investment Services	690.05	687.24	+1.19	+1.19	8.2
Investment Services	625.05	625.05	+0.56	+0.56	5.5
Investment Services	715.35	715.35	+0.39	+0.39	4.9
Investment Services	102.82	101.00	+0.81	+0.81	43.2
Investment Services	156.78	156.78	+0.80	+0.80	4.3
Investment Services	153.93	152.98	+0.80	+0.80	4.3
Investment Services	122.59	122.59	+0.80	+0.80	4.3
Investment Services	133.75	132.97	+0.01	+0.01	4.4
Investment Services	211.40	210.78	+0.59	+0.59	49.9
Investment Services	277.40	275.75	+0.59	+0.59	49.9
Investment Services	86.82	86.17	+1.58	+1.58	10.0
Investment Services	206.13	207.15	+0.41	+0.41	71.4
Investment Services	1456.48	1456.48	+0.79	+0.79	28.3
Investment Services	75.52	75.52	+0.79	+0.79	28.3
Investment Services	4887.85	4810.71	+1.57	+1.57	80.0
Investment Services	81.80	81.80	+0.01	+0.01	12.0
Investment Services	925.58	920.53	+0.01	+0.01	6.4
Investment Services	2850.51	2850.51	+0.36	+0.36	74.5
Investment Services	1551.77	1551.77	+0.26	+0.26	4.5
Investment Services	191.22	191.22	+0.26	+0.26	4.5
Investment Services	1551.77	1551.77	+0.26	+0.26	4.5

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FOREIGN CURRENCY					
Alban Foreign	—	—	—	—	29.3
Alomont Foreign Currency	114.73	113.98	-1.54	—	12.6
Analyst Europe	—	—	—	—	91.0
Carroll Foreign	—	—	—	—	1.9
Déla Moged	1765.91	127.81	-1.97	-1.97	57.3
Dollar	—	—	—	—	5.9
Endis Mamed	376.46	376.46	-1.75	-1.75	52.8
Endis Towel	—	—	—	—	54.2
East Indian Currency	12.05	11.73	-2.44	-2.44	7.9
Harot Dollar	1024.13	1077.22	-1.71	-1.71	71.8
Harot Euro	—	—	—	—	62.5
Harot Iran S	—	—	—	—	11.8
Harot Marsh	258.99	258.99	-2.10	-2.10	45.8
Korom Foreign	—	—	—	—	10.6
Lafahk Cosmos S	—	—	—	—	11.5
Lafahk Lash	—	—	—	—	38.1
Lafahk Lash	681.99	681.99	-1.83	-1.83	89.9
Melvar Foreign Currency	339.53	336.60	-1.95	-1.95	82.6
Melvar Foreign	—	—	—	—	16.7
Nexus Zarnar Foreign Curr	98.16	98.16	-1.80	-1.80	15.7
Onza Foreign Currency	157.43	157.43	-1.97	-1.97	20.0
Prater Inlat Match	303.07	202.07	-1.98	-1.98	471.0
Pia Chul	—	—	—	—	124.3
Pia Prime S	329.05	126.79	-2.15	-2.15	37.4
Pia Prime	—	—	—	—	34.9
Pia Prime	—	—	—	—	133.8
Pia Prime	—	—	—	—	68.9
Pia Prime	—	—	—	—	150.7
Pia Prime	—	—	—	—	62.2
Pia Prime	616.55	605.65	-1.87	-1.87	81.4
Pia Prime	—	—	—	—	19.2
Pia Prime	367.15	380.26	-1.97	-1.97	69.5

MIXED					
Ethan Pekar	372.23	365.64	-0.03	-0.03	86.3
Ethan Pekar	327.48	326.15	-0.38	-0.38	63.8
Green Pekar	300.65	302.65	-0.39	-0.39	173.5
Green Pekar	204.20	259.95	-0.63	-0.63	35.3
Green Pekar	835.65	948.79	-0.64	-0.64	145.0
Harot Marsh	304.93	2992.98	-0.64	-0.64	95.4
Harot Marsh	817.94	800.17	-0.07	-0.07	64.0
Harot Marsh	147.94	146.95	-0.27	-0.27	14.0
Harot Marsh	90.79	90.79	-0.30	-0.30	14.0
Harot Marsh	890.63	890.63	-1.05	-1.05	182.2
Harot Marsh	7336.15	7336.15	-1.05	-1.05	225.8
Harot Marsh	747.43	743.61	-0.45	-0.45	69.5

DATE: 17-Jan-98
 SOURCE: METWU Ltd - Managers of Mutual Funds and Security Investments

The mutual fund prices listed reflect the close of trading on MONDAY. They should be used as a guide only and not as the basis for dealing in securities. METWU Ltd is not responsible for the accuracy of the prices.

THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Amir Rosenthal, general manager of Novell Israel, was one of 15 recipients of the Novell

President's Prize, which was inaugurated this year at a festive ceremony in San Jose, California. Rosebush received the prize as recognition of his development of a marketing, sales, training and support outsourcing project.

Jerusalem attorney Elishiva Shaked has been awarded

been awarded the Order of St. Isidore-Lahav-Meshoulam in recognition of 20 years of service at the St. John's hospital in Sheikh Jarrah.

Rabbi Simcha Kraus, the newly elected president of the Religious Zedek of America, has completed a whirlwind 10-day visit to Israel. The spiritual leader of Young Israel of Hillcrest, New York, heads met in Tel Aviv with Education Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz. Mr. Kraus

President: M.K. Shmariya
Vice-Pres: Hanan Porat
Secretary: Asukezu Chan
Treasurer: Yisrael Meir Lior
World Mizrahi President
Chairman and Director-
General: Dr. Joseph Burg,
and numerous other
personnel.

Johnson-Den has been appointed manager for the sports market by Electra Consumer Products. Den was previously manager

Bar-Jan
University president, Professor
Moshe Kaveh, has been appointed

Ariel Levita has been appointed to head the Defense Ministry's Weapons Inspection Division. Levita, 45, holds a doctorate in international relations from Cornell University, where he also received his MA in poli-

TASE declines led by Bank Hapoalim

Tel Aviv

Stocks fell yesterday for a second day, led by Bank Hapoalim after it announced it had reduced its holdings in chemical manufacturer Makhteshim Agan Industries, which has been affected by the Brazilian currency crisis.

The Maof Index of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's 25 largest companies fell 0.39 percent to 308.71 after declining 0.33 percent the previous day.

Bank Hapoalim fell 1.57% to 7.50. Israel's largest bank announced it had reduced its holdings in Makhteshim-Agan Industries below the 5% threshold that made it a major shareholder. Bank Leumi fell 0.52% to NIS 5.78. The No. 2 bank announced it was no longer a major shareholder in Formula Systems. Formula fell 0.80% to 99.30.

Makhteshim-Agan Industries fell 1.29% to 8.39. The chemical manufacturer does a large portion of its business in Latin America and investors have been concerned about the impact of Brazil's currency troubles.

Tambour fell 2.65% to NIS 5.52. The paint manufacturer's chief executive, Reuven Shulstein, resigned after 14 years in the job.

Pharmaceutical Industries rose 1.66% to 177.60. The strong sales growth of Biogen Inc.'s multiple sclerosis drug, Avonex, may indicate that Teva's Copaxone multiple sclerosis treatment will enjoy larger sales, Teva Chief Financial Officer Dan Suesskind told the financial daily Globes.

"Awareness about all multiple sclerosis drugs is on the rise now, and this is also good for Teva, in my estimation," Suesskind said.

Clal Electronic Industries rose 1.94% to NIS 630. The technology holding company said it sold a 42% stake in an affiliate which makes equipment for semiconductor manufacturers for \$10 million.

Clal Electronic said it expects to note a NIS 30m. capital gain when the sale is completed.

Dead Sea Works fell 0.89% to NIS 8.92. Volkswagen AG said it will withhold a \$25m. investment in a joint magnesium project with Dead Sea Works.

Europe

European stocks fell yesterday on concern the speculation about mergers and acquisitions that drove stocks up the previous day left them higher than the outlook for corporate profit can justify.

When merger speculation "calms down, we'll have to return to look at company fundamentals," said Pasquale Arcadio, who helps manage \$430m. in equities at Cassa Lombarda in Milan.

He said he's neither buying nor selling for the moment.

The Bloomberg Europe 500 index fell 0.73 points, or 0.35%, to 206.76 as about two stocks fell for each one that rose. Six of the benchmark indexes in Europe's eight biggest markets fell, one rose and one was mixed. Spain's IBEX 35 index led the decliners, falling 1.1%.

Vodafone Group Plc. fell 43 pence to 1,182.5, paring its 14.7% gain on Monday after the UK's largest mobile-phone company confirmed late Friday it was buying AirTouch Communications Inc. The purchase will transform Vodafone into the world's biggest wireless-phone company and the third-biggest publicly traded UK company.

"I've been selling Vodafone," said Bill Thomson, who man-



Maof 308.71 ▼ 0.39%
Dow Jones 9355 ▲ 0.01%
FTSE 5244.2 ▼ 1.5%
Nikkei 13770.44 ▼ 0.25%

average fell 34.62, or 0.3 percent, to 13,770.44. Honda, which sees its profit shrink by 6 billion yen (\$53 million) each time the Japanese currency strengthens one yen against the dollar, accounted for half of the index's decline. The dollar's six-day rally against the yen faltered, pushing it as low as 113.59 yen.

"Despite a bit of bounce by the dollar, the yen is fundamentally so strong it will take a toll on exporter earnings that will last clear through September," said Takashi Miyazaki, strategist at Partners Asset Management Co., which handles 1 trillion yen (\$87.3 billion) in securities.

Elsewhere, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell 1.1% as banks set aside more money for bad loans to southern Chinese investment companies. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Blue-chip stocks rallied in the last hour of trading yesterday to match a powerful surge in technology stocks that had the Nasdaq composite index soaring all day.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 14.67 points to 9,355.22 after erasing an earlier loss.

Blue chip stocks were hampered most of the day by fears that Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan might attempt to cool the market's recent advances when he testifies today before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Investors remember well the chairman's "irrational exuberance" speech in December of 1996, when Greenspan suggested that stocks were trading at values far too rich to be justified by earnings projections and gen-

eral outlook on the economy. After stumbling nervously, the market kept rising. In the first trading week of this year, the Dow industrials gained 5 percent. Embarking on its third trading week of the year, it is trading up about 2% for the year.

Any hint that Greenspan is reasserting his "irrational exuberance" warning will squelch already dim hopes that the Fed will ease interest rates soon, said Eugene Peroni, market analyst at Janney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia.

"Because of the big moves in Internet stocks and the fact that the Dow has gone on to make a new high recently, the bias seems to favor that he will be a bit more cautious," Peroni said.

Larry Wachtel, market analyst at Prudential Securities, said that while he agreed that "when Alan Greenspan talks, the market listens," blue chips moved higher because technology stocks put upward pressure on them all day until finally they capitulated.

"When you have a powerful move in the big-cap technology stocks, you're going to have the big blue chip names follow," Wachtel said.

The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 8.74 to 1,252.00, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index rose 59.47 to 2,407.67.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by 1,530 to 1,522 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 519 unchanged. NYSE volume totaled 782.45 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 792.62 million in the previous session.

The NYSE composite index rose 1.44 to 594.83, and the American Stock Exchange composite index fell 1.68 to 707.61. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 3.84 to 430.89.

Asia

Japanese stocks were mixed. Concern the yen's strength will sap profits at exporters drove down Honda Motor Co. and Bridgestone Corp. Ito-Yokado Co., the second biggest supermarket chain, rose as its sales recovered. The benchmark Nikkei 225

Dollar falls as Brazil rate rise erodes growth hopes

The dollar fell against the yen for the first time in three days after Brazil raised interest rates to stem the decline in its currency, dampening hopes for a revival of growth in Latin America's largest economy.

Concern US stocks may drop amid pessimism about Brazil is also hurting the dollar, currency traders said.

"The dollar is a little weaker ahead of the US [stock market] opening as people wait and see how the market will react to the situation in Brazil," said Robert Katz, a trader at MTB Bank. "If there's one big question mark over the dollar, it's the outlook

for Brazil and emerging markets." The dollar fell to 113.74 yen from 114.22 late Monday in New York. It erased losses against the euro, leaving it little changed at \$1.1605 from \$1.1613, after the European Central Bank reinforced expectations for lower European interest rates in coming months.

Brazil changed its benchmark interest rate, driving the cost of overnight borrowing to 41 percent from 29% in an effort to keep the real, which dropped about 20% in the past week, from sliding further. A slump in Latin American growth is bad for the US, which does about one-fifth of



Dollar 4.0640 ▲ 0.39%
Basket 4.4471 ▲ 0.47%
Euro 4.7195 ▲ 0.51%
Sterling 6.7422 ▲ 0.54%

"This is clearly pointing to a weaker dollar because of the trade exposure" and US loans to the region, said Stewart Newbham, a currency strategist at Commerzbank in London, who expects the dollar to drop below 110 yen by the end of the month. "We'll see relentless pressure on the dollar."

Brazil abandoned efforts to maintain a preset value for its currency, raising hopes that growth will be boosted by cheaper exports and by cutting the high interest rates which the central bank used to support the currency.

Still, Finance Minister Pedro

Malan, meeting with US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and Deputy US Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers in Washington, said any reduction in interest rates will be "gradual" and won't happen right away.

If the export-led growth is wiped out by higher Brazilian interest rates, "they're not just back to square one, they're behind square one," said Steve Barrow, a currency strategist at Bear Stearns International. "The situation will get worse before it gets better. I'm nervous about the dollar."

(Bloomberg)

Palladium up on concern over Russian budget

Precious Metals

Palladium rose as much as \$5.50, or 1.7 percent, to \$320.50 an ounce yesterday on concern bickering in the Russian parliament about the government's 1999 budget is holding up approval of new shipments of the metal, used in electronics and auto parts, from the world's biggest exporting nation.

Prices have surged 19% since the beginning of December on increased fears that the dispute in the Duma could interrupt supply from the nation responsible for two-thirds of the world supply.

Oil

Crude oil for February delivery was unchanged in early trading at \$12.11 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange as traders wait to see whether increased cold-weather demand for heating oil reduced abundant supplies. US distillate fuel inventories, which include heating oil, have unexpectedly risen for three straight weeks, reports from the American Petroleum Institute show, even as frigid weather gripped parts of the US. The next API report will be issued today; it was delayed one

COMMODITIES

Coffee for March delivery fell as much as 3.3 cents to \$1.1225 a pound on the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange in New York amid concern that Brazil, the world's largest producer, will boost exports to earn dollars after the government devalued the currency.

The Brazilian government last week dropped all defense of the real after widening the trading band last Wednesday, sending the currency 16 percent lower against the dollar in the past three days. The cheaper real is expected to lead growers to export as much coffee as they can to earn dollars.

Others

US bonds fall as stocks advance

US bonds fell for a second session, as stocks in Brazil and the US advanced, curbing demand for Treasury securities as a refuge.

The 30-year bond fell 19/32, or \$5.94 per \$1,000 bond, to 101 14/32. Its yield rose 4 basis points to 5.15 percent. Yields on two-year notes, the most actively traded Treasuries, rose 4 basis points to 4.60%.

"There's less of a safe-haven type of bid" with stock markets

gaining, said Ken Fan, a bond market strategist at Paribas Corp. Bonds fell as Brazilian stocks posted a third day of gains following the nation's decision to let its currency float freely against the dollar. The benchmark Bovespa index rose 2.3%.

US stocks also opened higher. In the Treasury market, "we're seeing some follow-through" from declines Friday, which were sparked by Brazil's decision to abandon its defense of its currency, said Mark Sauvigne, a trader

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 5.15 ▲ 0.04

at Chase Securities Inc. Yesterday, Brazil changed its benchmark interest rate, driving the cost of overnight borrowing to 41% from 29% in an effort to keep the real, which has dropped about 20% in the past week, from sliding further. The real was recently quoted at 1.5950 per dollar, compared with 1.5800 on Monday.

With no major US reports slated for release, investors will look to a speech by Federal Reserve

Chairman Alan Greenspan for clues to interest-rate policy. Greenspan is scheduled to testify before the House Ways and Means Committee at 10 a.m. New York time today.

"Unless we get something dramatic from overseas, don't expect a whole lot out of the markets in front of Greenspan," said Michael Clonerty, bond market strategist from Credit Suisse First Boston. (Bloomberg)

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Shoham Pharmacy, 42 Agrippas, 624-6484; Balaam, Salah E. Dini, 627-2315; Shabat, Shabat Road, 551-0105; Dr. Adina, Herod's Gate, 629-2055.
Tel Aviv: Maccabi, 2 Balfour, 629-9058; Superpharm Ministore, 4 Sha'ul Hamelech, 629-0106.
Ramat Gan: Kfar Sava, 765-9642; Netanya: Kamel, Kiyat Nordau Commercial Center, 665-6670; Hattila: Superpharm, 2 Kinyori, 051-520221; Haifa: 33 Haifa, 833-3312.
Kiryat Arba: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 1 Kroya Goshen, Kiyat Moztzin, 871-7003.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkizim, 6 Maccabi (near Sderot Hagolim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'it Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Shoham Zedek (internal, ophthalmology, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, obstetrics); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bikur Holim (pediatrics).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
Netanya: Larnitz.

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Magen David Adom in emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:
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Scottie Pippen: Thanks for the memories, Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — Keep the door open, the exodus from the Chicago Bulls is picking up speed.

With Michael Jordan trading in his gym shoes for golf spikes, the Bulls are wasting little time in breaking up the six-time champions. Scottie Pippen is set to go to the Houston Rockets, with Steve Kerr and Luc Longley following him out the door.

The Bulls will sign Pippen to a five-year, \$67.2 million deal and then promptly ship him to the Rockets. In return, Chicago will get forward Roy Rogers and a second-round draft pick.

"I am excited about my new career in Houston, and even though everything seems to be changing, I hope Bulls fans everywhere will understand that it is time for a new era to begin in Chicago," Pippen said.

"Chicago has been my home for nearly half my life, and with family and friends here I will always treat the city as home. I only hope the city of Chicago will continue to treat me as one of their own. Thanks for all the great memories."

Kerr, one of the best 3-point shooters in the league, will sign a five-year, \$11 million deal with the San Antonio Spurs, according to a source close to the Bulls.

And Longley, the starting center on the Bulls' last three championship teams, was reportedly headed to the Phoenix Suns.

According to reports, Longley will sign a five-year, \$30 million deal with the Bulls, who will then trade him to Phoenix for forward Martin Murrup, forward-center Mark Bryant and guard-forward Bubba Wells.

The departures of Pippen, Kerr and Longley are only part of the bad news for Bulls fans.

Bulls general manager Jerry Krause is keeping silent while he wheels and deals, but he said last week the Bulls had three options. If Jordan stayed, Chicago would try and bring back the championship team. If he left, the Bulls would try and sign their own key free agents and make



NEWCOMER — Scottie Pippen heads for Houston. (Reuters)

Panthers are Hasek's 8th shutout victim



SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Dominik Hasek stopped 33 shots for his eighth shutout of the season, leading the Buffalo Sabres to a 4-0 win over the Florida Panthers on Monday.

Hasek, also the NHL leader in wins (22) and save percentage, recorded his 41st career shutout to help the Sabres snap a four-game winless road streak (0-2-2).

Bruins 3, Predators 1

Peter Ferraro set up both of Steve Heinze's second-period goals to break up a close game, and Boston won in a home rout.

Don Sweeney, Tim Taylor, P.J. Axelsson, Joe Thornton, Dmitri Khristich and Andre Savage also scored for Boston, which stopped a three-game winless streak (0-2-1) with its second-highest offensive output this season. The Bruins beat Montreal 9-2 in October.

Sharks 3, Devils 1

Mike Vernon stopped 33 shots as San Jose, which has allowed two goals or fewer in 11 of their last 18 games, won at home.

Capitals 4, Canadiens 4

Peter Bondra's 300th NHL career goal, midway through the third period, lifted visiting Washington to a tie.

Kelly Miller, Joe Juneau and Sergei Gonchar also scored for Washington, which rallied from a 3-1 deficit to remain unbeaten (5-0-2) at the Molsen Center since the building opened in March 1996. Andrei Nikolishin and

James Black had two assists each for the Capitals.

Hurricanes 4, Maple Leafs 2

Gary Roberts scored a pair of second-period goals and Ron Francis had three assists as host Carolina won a battle of division leaders.

The Southeast Division-leading Hurricanes broke Toronto's four-game unbeaten streak.

Flyers 5, Senators 0

John Vanbiesbroeck stopped 36 shots as visiting Philadelphia

gained its fifth shutout in six games.

The win gave Flyers coach Roger Neilson his 400th career coaching victory. Eric Lindros had a goal and an assist for Philadelphia while Jody Hull, Eric Desjardins, Daymond Langkow and Dan McMillan also scored goals.

The Flyers, who had their 15-game unbeaten streak broken Saturday by the Toronto Maple Leafs, ended the Senators' unbeaten streak at 11 games (8-0-3).

Canucks 5, Stars 3

Trent Klatt scored the tiebreaking goal early in the second period and newcomer Dave Gagner had two assists as Vancouver handed Dallas only its third home defeat this season.

Mighty Ducks 5, Penguins 3

Marty McInnis scored twice and Fredrik Olausson extended his goal-scoring streak to five games as Anaheim won at home.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	23	10	5	51	131	84
New Jersey	23	14	5	51	122	111
Pittsburgh	20	13	7	47	120	108
N.Y. Rangers	17	19	7	41	115	120
N.Y. Islanders	13	28	3	29	99	129

Northwest Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	25	16	3	53	142	127
Buffalo	23	17	7	53	138	84
Ottawa	20	15	7	47	119	94
Montreal	17	20	8	42	106	117

Southeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	20	17	7	47	115	108
Florida	15	16	11	41	103	112
Washington	16	22	4	36	99	109
Tampa Bay	9	30	2	22	89	151

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	22	19	4	47	130	118
St. Louis	16	15	9	41	107	100
St. Paul	24	4	34	98	139	93
Chicago	12	25	7	31	94	138

Northwest Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	20	19	4	44	105	107
Edmonton	18	19	6	42	123	113
Vancouver	15	23	6	36	114	131
Calgary	14	26	4	32	107	134

Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	23	11	6	52	104	82
San Jose	17	18	8	42	101	101
San Jose	15	18	11	41	101	103
Los Angeles	16	23	4	36	100	113

Atlantic Division

First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Overtime	Shootout
Philadelphia 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
New Jersey 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Pittsburgh 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
N.Y. Rangers 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
N.Y. Islanders 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0

Northwest Division

First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Overtime	Shootout
Toronto 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Buffalo 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Ottawa 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Montreal 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0

Southeast Division

First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Overtime	Shootout
Carolina 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Florida 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Washington 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Tampa Bay 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0

Pacific Division

First Period	Second Period	Third Period	Overtime	Shootout
Phoenix 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
San Jose 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
San Jose 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Los Angeles 2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0

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SPORTS

in brief

Italy rugby player Francescato dies suddenly

ROME (Reuters) - Italy center Ivan Francescato, the youngest son of the country's greatest rugby family, died yesterday of a sudden and mysterious illness.

The 31-year-old Benetton Treviso player felt strong pains in his head and chest shortly after returning home after a night out with friends on Monday. He started vomiting violently and died in the early hours of yesterday morning.

He had attended a Treviso training session on Monday but had not taken part because of a minor knee injury.

A spokeswoman for the Italian Rugby Union Federation (FIR) said the cause of death was not known. A post mortem is due today.

Francescato, the youngest of six brothers, played 38 times for Italy at center and scrum half.

IFA bids farewell to Bendori

The Israel Football Association yesterday held a surprise party for Avraham Bendori who retired as the national team's administrative manager after 20 years in the job. Bendori, who was also Israel's goalkeeper during the 'fifties was honored by many guests at the Holiday Inn hotel in Tel Aviv. Administrators and players past and present, as well as Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai were on hand to wish Bendori well.

In other news, Middlesbrough's football team arrived here late last night for a week-long training camp. *Offer Ronen Abels*

Finnish IOC member quits amid scandal

GENEVA (Reuters) - A Finnish member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), who has denied links to a scandal over the choice of Salt Lake City to host the 2002 Winter Games, has resigned, the IOC said yesterday.

Franklin Servan-Schreiber, spokesman for the beleaguered Lausanne-based body, put a bold face on the resignation of Pirjo Haggman, the first of the 13 members being investigated in the scandal, calling it a "case closed."

"She sent her resignation to President (Juan Antonio) Samaranch this afternoon by fax. She maintains her innocence in any allegations connected to Salt Lake City," he said.

The spokesman confirmed that the 47-year-old Haggman was one of 13 members under investigation over allegations that IOC members were offered various inducements to vote in 1995 for the Games to go to the Utah capital.

Hurricane Cairns blows India to defeat

CHRISTCHURCH (Reuters) - A blazing 115 off 80 balls by Chris Cairns destroyed India and helped New Zealand square the series with a 70-run victory in the fifth and final one-day international.

New Zealand put on 96 in their last 10 overs, at one stage scoring 50 from just 17 balls, to post a huge 300 for eight.

India scored 230 in reply off 43.5 overs.

All-rounder Cairns, playing in his 100th one-day international, hit seven fours and seven sixes.

The series ended 2-2 after the third 50-over game was washed out.

Knee injury forces Mabbutt to quit

LONDON (Reuters) - Former Tottenham skipper Gary Mabbutt quit soccer yesterday after doctors told him a fragmented knee cap would not stand up to the demands of the professional game.

Mabbutt, 37, who played 619 matches and scored 37 goals for Spurs in 16 seasons at White Hart Lane, was released last June.

Although he had surgery on his left knee over the summer he had hoped to play for another club for at least another two years.

The defender won 16 England caps between 1982 and 1992 and won widespread respect for the way he coped with his diabetes and for the work he does for diabetics nationwide.

United boss hints at retirement date

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson hinted yesterday at his retirement date - but possible successors should not hold their breath waiting for him to quit immediately.

Ferguson, currently the most successful manager in the English game, said yesterday he might retire in 2003 by which time he would have been boss at Old Trafford for 17 years.

Ferguson, appointed United manager in November 1986, told the Manchester Evening News: "Who knows, I may ride off into the sunset in four years time."

Before he leaves, Ferguson is expected to collect £3 million from a benefit year which will formally be launched in two weeks time.

A concert by pop group Simply Red will be the highlight of the testimonial year with Ferguson promising a slice of the money raised will go towards the Elizabeth Hardie Ferguson Fund - a charity trust he set up in memory of his mother.

Hap. Jerusalem host Antwerp in Saporta Cup tonight

By ELI GRONER

Hapoel Jerusalem hosts Tilindus Antwerp in the second leg of last-32 Saporta Cup action at Malha tonight (Channel 5, 20:30).

Jerusalem enters the contest with a three-point deficit after last week's 67-64 loss in Belgium, but is favored to advance to the last-16.

The aggregate winner will probably play Badalona de Spain in the next round.

Antwerp will be playing without one of its best players, Lou Roe who was injured late last week and may be out for the season. This means the the Belgians will rely primarily on Iva Duflo and Michael Yuger.

The Jerusalemites, on the other hand, are at full strength, after manhandling Hapoel Tel Aviv, 77-57 in the league on Sunday.

Although there was concern about Radisav Curcic's fitness, the Jerusalem center took part in yesterday's practice.

England reinstated to Five Nations after row

LONDON (Reuters) - England returned to the Five Nations championship yesterday less than 24 hours after being thrown out of the world's oldest rugby tournament after a heated row over money.

England, who were kicked out on Monday after a bitter dispute with the other nations over television revenue, have come to an agreement with the Five Nations committee, English Rugby Union (RFU) administrator Bill Beaumont said.

"I am absolutely delighted that we have reached an amicable settlement," the former England captain said.

England were thrown out after they failed to answer Five Nations committee demands to confirm the validity of an 10-year accord agreed in 1996 over the money.

But the RFU has now signed a document confirming the deal, Five Nations chairman Allan Hosié said.

"With the signing of that unequivocal statement I am pleased to say that I immediately bring England into the Five Nations championship this year," he said.

Asked if the expulsion had been necessary, he added: "It is always regrettable that we have come to this situation because the game of rugby football was going to lose if we had not got the Five Nations championship that everyone was looking for."

"However it was fundamental to the long-term future of the Five Nations that everyone was part and parcel of the accord."

The decision came after a day of key talks between Hosié and RFU representatives and 24 hours of posturing which has hurt the image of the game.

The dispute was clearly worrying the sponsors.

Lloyds TSB, who signed up this year as the title sponsor of the annual tournament in a three-year deal worth £20 million, had planned to meet a Five Nations committee member during the day, business sources said.

Lloyds sponsorship spokesman Mark Harper said the company would have reviewed their position if England had not taken part.



WELL DONE GOFFIE! - England captain Alex Stewart (right) congratulates Darren Gough after the Yorkshireman took four wickets for 28 runs against Sri Lanka yesterday. (Reuters)

England too strong for Sri Lanka

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Graeme Hick fired 66 not out yesterday as England outclassed Sri Lanka by seven wickets to extend their lead in the triangular series limited-overs competition to four points.

England completed their fourth win from five starts when they passed Sri Lanka's modest total of 186 with 28 balls to spare.

World-champions Sri Lanka have now lost their last eight day-day internationals, including all three in this series.

Their hopes of ending the losing streak faded almost as soon as the match began when Darren Gough ripped through their batting.

The Yorkshire paceman was at his menacing best as he skittled Sri Lanka's top order to take four for 10 in his first seven overs. He finished with four for 28 from 10 overs

to win the man of the match award. Gough made the early breakthrough when he had Sanath Jayasuriya caught by Nasser Hussain at gully for one then forced Marvan Atapattu to edge a catch to Hick at second slip for one.

He also bowled Romesh Kaluwitharana (15) and Hashan Tillekeratne (10) to leave Sri Lanka feeling at 24 for four.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga (76) and Upul Chandana (50) gave the world champions an outside chance of victory when they added 92 for the sixth wicket but their dismissals triggered another collapse as the last five batsmen fell for just 46.

England batted cautiously in reaching their target but were never in any real danger although they suffered a slight hiccup along the way.

Nick Knight (31) and Stewart (20) put on 52 in 67 balls for the first wicket before they fell to paceman Nuwan Zoysa in successive deliveries.

Hussain denied Zoysa his hat-trick as he and Hick carefully added 62 for the third wicket to put the match out of Sri Lanka's reach.

Hussain went for 29 when he was stumped by Romesh Kaluwitharana off Muttiah Muralitharan before Hick, who scored a century in Sunday's win over Australia in Sydney, put on 74 with John Crawley (31 not out) in an unbeaten stand to steer England home.

Sri Lanka play Australia in Hobart tomorrow.

STANDINGS P W L Pts
England 5 4 1 8
Australia 4 2 2 8
Sri Lanka 3 0 3 0

Israel face tough Norwegians tonight

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

After thrashing Estonia 7-0 on Monday night, Israel face a much tougher challenge against Norway's national team in a friendly at Ramat Gan's National Stadium tonight (kickoff at 18:30 live on METV).

Coach Shlomo Scharf, who experimented with an attacking formation against the Estonians - probably similar to the one he will use against Cyprus in the next Euro 2000 qualifier - looks almost certain to change the formation and play with three central defenders against the strong Norwegians.

This change may mark the return of Maccabi Haifa's Amir Benadon who was limited to a second-half appearance on Monday. Benadon will join Hapoel Haifa's Ran Ben-Shimon and Betar Jerusalem's Amir Shaleh.

Maccabi's Alon Harazi and Hapoel's Najwan Grayeb will occupy the wing-back positions and complete the line of defense.

Hapoel Petah Tikva's Walid Badir will play in front of the defense as he will be in charge of breaking the Norwegians' attack in the center of

the field, while Maccabi Petah Tikva's Idan Tal, who impressed on Monday with a vintage performance, will keep his place in the absence of West Ham's Eyal Berkovic.

Maccabi Tel Aviv's Avi Nimni who scored a penalty against Estonia is certain to start, as is Grasshoppers Zurich's Avi Tikva who also scored and created two others as he replaced the absent Haim Revivo.

It also appears that Bursaspor's Ronen Harazi, who scored his 20th and 21st goals in national team colors on Monday, will keep his place upfront ahead of Maccabi Haifa's Alon Mizrahi.

Hapoel Tel Aviv central defender Shimon Gershon who made his debut as a second-half substitute on Monday will miss the game through injury.

"It will be a completely different ball game against a much stronger side despite them (Norway) missing some 10 key players," Avi Tikva told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

"The Norwegians play a very fast and physical game, similar to England's but we still would like to win," Tikva added.

Norway arrived without 10 players

from England's Premiership. They were not released by their clubs as this coming weekend they go into the fourth round of the FA Cup.

The Manchester United trio of Ronny Johnsen, Henning Berg and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer face Liverpool's trio Oyvind Leonardsen, Vegard Heggem and Stig Inge Bjornebye at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Also missing are Sheffield Wednesday's Peter Rudi, Derby County's Lars Bohinen and Leeds United's duo Alf Inge Haaland and Gunnar Halle.

Chelsea forward Tore Andre Flo is sidelined through an ankle injury.

But Norway, who drew in their last friendly against Egypt in Cairo in November, still have a strong squad with Tottenham's goalkeeper Espen Baardsen, Southampton's center forward Egil Ostensland, teammate Claus Lundekvam and Flo's older brother, Joestein, who looks forward to winning his 50th cap.

Champions Rosenborg who failed to qualify for the quarter finals of the Champions League have got a strong presence with six members in the squad.

Nought by North West

Everton struggle with goalless, boring play

THE statistically minded should consider the following facts concerning Everton Football Club. Monday night's 3-0 defeat at Aston Villa not only leaves the Merseysiders perilously close to the Premiership relegation zone but also confirms the club as the most boring in the country.

It's hard to believe (unless you are a Liverpool fan), but of Everton's miserly 13 goals in 22 games, only three have been scored at home. If they continue down this road to nought-where (0-27 goals at home game), they will reach the dizzying heights of five home strikes winning just three games.

Everton should be careful - the all-time record for fewest goals in England's top flight belongs to Huddersfield Town, who managed 12 in 21 home games in 1971-72.

With this kind of record, one wonders about the sanity of the club's board of directors, who decided to sell Duncan Ferguson, the one striker who could have eased the goal drought.

The £8 million sale was very much against the wishes of manager Walter Smith who almost resigned over the issue and the resulting hole up front has allowed defenders visiting Goodison Park to enjoy a trouble-free afternoon.

Smith has actually spent £16m on strengthening the squad but the great foreign hopes Mikael Madar and Ibrahim Bakayoko have simply not delivered; and unless a striker with a good track record is bought soon, it's going to be a long run-in for Everton.

Ironically the future looks very bright for the club - the youth team, recently thrashed Manchester United 4-0 with 17-year-old Francis Jeffers, being talked about with a great deal of hyperbole. But when you consider the club's proud tradition of playing exciting, attacking football, the tag of boring Everton must be hard to swallow for the 30,000 faithful who still turn up for the home bouts.

Now here's a paradox. Despite Liverpool's and Manchester United's huge goal tallies on Saturday, the most interesting game of the weekend was undoubtedly the 0-0 draw between Spurs and Wimbledon (please do not be heartened, Everton fans).

This was the first of four meetings between the clubs - they meet in the FA and Worthington Cups over the next month - and if Saturday was anything to go by, the next three will evoke a saga to make Ben Hur look like a film student's 8mm summer holiday project.

Saturday had everything in football drama except goals as Wimbledon proudly paraded John Hartson their £7m signing from West Ham on Friday.

It didn't take long for Hartson to get into the Wimbledon spirit of things. At the training ground on Friday, the Crazy Gang (aka Wimbledon's players) burnt Hartson's £1,000 Armani suit and threw him in a muddy lake. And just 13 minutes into the game on Saturday, Hartson showed his penchant for progressive sculpting of the human body (remember his efforts to disfigure the face of Eyal Berkovic?), with a particularly ugly lunge on Spurs' midfielder Andy Simon.

But the real controversy was saved for David Ginola, who was denied four penalty appeals by referee Mike Riley. As the teams were warming up, Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear pointed to Ginola and demonstrated a diving motion to Riley. On Saturday and you can be sure that the Wimbledon pitch will have plenty of nooks and crannies to cramp Ginola's style.

If you fancy a flutter of the Premiership, a wager on Chelsea might be money well invested. The fashionable Londoners (or the foreign legion as they are also known) continued their incredible unbeaten run with another last-gasp win on Saturday - this time Roberto Di Matteo's strike sank Coventry City. Three times this season, Chelsea have scored winners in injury time, but on this occasion Coventry have got only themselves to blame.

The Midlands are enjoying a mini-revival particularly with the form of Darren Huckerby who continues to mesmerize defenses. His early goal ended an eight-hour run Chelsea had enjoyed without conceding a goal, but after Frank Lebowitz levelled just before the break, Coventry came out for the second half in Stonewall Jackson mode, content to sit it out for a draw.

It might have worked but for the antics of manager Gordon Strachan whose touchline etiquette would certainly not merit an entry in DeBrett's Peerage. At best passionate, at worst uncouth, Strachan faces an FA misconduct charge after running down the touchline with the ball near the end of the game presumably to waste time. The resulting fracas as the two dug-outs wrestled to get or keep possession of the ball was unsavory, but in the end, it worked to Chelsea's advantage with referee Jeff Winter adding enough injury time for Chelsea to score.

After the game Strachan said he had been picked on by Winter for stepping outside the coaches' perimeter next to the dug-out. His players might be asking why their manager disrupted the game in such a fashion.

FINALLY, a word on John Rudge, the league's longest serving manager who was sacked by First Division Port Vale on Monday after 15 years at the club.

Vale lie bottom of the division and chairman Bill Bell is keen to reverse the slump which has seen just two wins in 14 games. But supporters are furious that Rudge, who led the club from the old Fourth Division to the First, has been dumped. Brighton manager Brian Horton is the favorite to take over.

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

Hartson was very lucky to stay on the field and after the game he demonstrated his oratory prowess in explaining that the tackle on Simon may have been a bit "over the top" but that the gaffer had told him to "get stuck in."

But the real controversy was saved for David Ginola, who was denied four penalty appeals by referee Mike Riley. As the teams were warming up, Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear pointed to Ginola and demonstrated a diving motion to Riley. On Saturday and you can be sure that the Wimbledon pitch will have plenty of nooks and crannies to cramp Ginola's style.

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test for steroids returned by Czech player Petr Korda. "I don't have a great suspicion of steroid use among players. Steroids definitely have a place in coming back from injuries (but) I'm more inclined to have a concern for something we cannot test for, which is blood doping," Courier said yesterday. "It gives a clear advantage for cardiovascular superiority to someone who does that. From what I've deduced there may be some suspicious things that are going on that I'm not aware of and are not being properly sourced out through our testing."

Last year's Tour de France was wrecked by drug scandals, starting when the team doctor for Festina was caught with more than 400 doping products, including EPO, in his car.

EPO occurs naturally in the body but can be taken in synthetic form to boost oxygen in red blood cells.

Only Falcons not surprised with Super Bowl berth



ATLANTA (AP) - No one expected the Atlanta Falcons to be in the Super Bowl. Even the NFL was caught off guard.

Coach Dan Reeves was grinning with satisfaction Monday as he discussed his dealings with the league after the Falcons shocked the heavily favored Minnesota Vikings in the NFC championship game.

On Sunday, following Atlanta's 30-27 overtime victory, Reeves met with two NFL officials about the schedule of events at the January 31 Super Bowl in Miami. He couldn't help but notice the itinerary was sprinkled with references to the Vikings.

Then, on Monday, the NFL faxed Reeves a memo that included another fax pass.

"You could tell they weren't expecting us because it said, 'Atlanta Falcons, head coach Denny Green,'" Reeves said, grinning with satisfaction. "They had changed the team from Minnesota Vikings, but they forgot to change the head coach."

Well, get used to the idea of Atlanta playing in the Super Bowl, as strange as that may seem for a franchise that's had only eight winning seasons in 33 years.

Defending champion Denver is an early seven-point favorite in the Super Bowl, which doesn't bother the Falcons a bit. They have revealed in the role of underdog all season, beating a Minnesota team that was a double-figure favorite.

"The whole country had them beating us by 11 points, had them on top of the world," tight end O.J. Santiago said. "Every time I looked at the TV, it seemed like Minnesota was on there. There's nothing wrong with that. They broke a lot of records."

"But at 14-2 (Atlanta's record during the regular season), you think somebody would notice we've got a good team. Now, maybe they will notice us."

Oh, they're noticing - especially in Atlanta, where the city awoke Monday with a giant "Dirty Bird" hangover.

The party spilled into the streets as soon as Morten Andersen's kick sailed through the uprights, then moved to Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport, where the team was greeted by more than 5,000 people late Sunday evening.

"You felt like you were in a dream world," said linebacker Jessie Tuggle, who has been with the Falcons for a dozen, mostly losing seasons.

Another 4,000 or so revelers jammed the team's suburban training complex, creating a rush hour-like traffic jam in the middle of the night. The scene was surreal when the players, after taking buses from the airport, appeared on a second-floor balcony, saluting the crowd that had taken over the practice field below.

"It was absolutely nuts," Tuggle said. "It was like a rock concert."

Much of the Super Bowl focus will be on Reeves, who will be facing the team he coached for 12 years and took to three title games. He'll also be facing the coach he fired for alleged subordination and the quarterback who said playing for Reeves was "hell." Reeves, fired by the Broncos after the 1992 season, insisted Monday that he has buried any hard feelings for Mike Shanahan and John Elway.

"I don't live in the past," said the Falcons coach, who recently underwent heart bypass surgery. "If you're going to be a football coach and you preach that the players should look to the next play and not think about the last one, I think you have to go through life the same way."

Norway arrived without 10 players

from England's Premiership. They were not released by their clubs as this coming weekend they go into the fourth round of the FA Cup.

The Manchester United trio of Ronny Johnsen, Henning Berg and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer face Liverpool's trio Oyvind Leonardsen, Vegard Heggem and Stig Inge Bjornebye at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Also missing are Sheffield Wednesday's Peter Rudi, Derby County's Lars Bohinen and Leeds United's duo Alf Inge Haaland and Gunnar Halle.

Chelsea forward Tore Andre Flo is sidelined through an ankle injury.

But Norway, who drew in their last friendly against Egypt in Cairo in November, still have a strong squad with Tottenham's goalkeeper Espen Baardsen, Southampton's center forward Egil Ostensland, teammate Claus Lundekvam and Flo's older brother, Joestein, who looks forward to winning his 50th cap.

Champions Rosenborg who failed to qualify for the quarter finals of the Champions League have got a strong presence with six members in the squad.

Mets sign Nomo for one year

NEW YORK (AP) - Hideo Nomo, still struggling to regain the form that made him National League Rookie of the Year in 1995, avoided a salary arbitration hearing when he agreed Monday with the New York Mets on a one-year contract worth \$2,925,000.

Nomo, acquired from Los Angeles last June, was one of six Mets who filed for arbitration last Friday.

"We are looking for Hideo to have a comeback year," Mets general manager Steve Phillips said. "His stuff was great last season." Nomo was 4-5 with a 5.04 ERA for the Mets and 6-12 with a 4.92 ERA overall. He struck out 167 and walked 94 in 157 1-3 innings, allowing 130 hits.

Nomo has a 49-41 career record with a 3.68 ERA. He was 13-6 with a 2.54 ERA for the Dodgers in 1995, ushering in a new era for Japanese players.

Courier suspects rivals of blood doping

MELBOURNE (AP) - Former No. 1 Jim Courier dragged men's tennis deep into another drugs controversy yesterday, saying he suspects rivals use blood doping to enhance performance.

Courier said he could not prove use of blood doping but has "long suspected" that some players use banned substances such as erythropoietin (EPO) - the drug at the center of cycling's Tour de France doping scandal.

Courier's statements were called "ridiculous" by Austrian player Thomas Muster, while ATP Players Council president Todd Martin said he had never heard of blood doping in the sport.

But Britain's Greg Rusedski backed Courier and said prize money should be cut to fund testing and players should have "three to four" blood tests a year.

Courier said that despite a positive

test for steroids returned by Czech player Petr Korda. "I don't have a great suspicion of steroid use among players. Steroids definitely have a place in coming back from injuries (but) I'm more inclined to have a concern for something we cannot test for, which is blood doping," Courier said yesterday. "It gives a clear advantage for cardiovascular superiority to someone who does that. From what I've deduced there may be some suspicious things that are going on that I'm not aware of and are not being properly sourced out through our testing."

Last year's Tour de France was wrecked by drug scandals, starting when the team doctor for Festina was caught with more than 400 doping products, including EPO, in his car.

EPO occurs naturally in the body but can be taken in synthetic form to boost oxygen in red blood cells.

Bruins romp



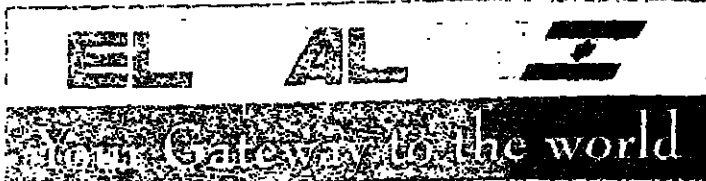
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England win again



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Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis



THE WEATHER
http://www.aceweather.com

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Thursday	High	Low
Ariel	10/50	43/30	12/53	6/43	13/55	7/44
Beersheba	11/52	54/11	13/55	7/44	13/55	7/44
Dead Sea	16/61	8/48	19/66	10/50	19/66	10/50
Eilat	19/66	8/48	21/70	10/50	19/66	10/50
Hatza	18/61	8/48	19/66	10/50	19/66	10/50
Jerusalem	10/50	54/11	12/53	6/43	13/55	7/44
Katza	10/50	54/11	12/53	6/43	13/55	7/44
Netanya	15/59	8/48	17/62	10/50	19/66	10/50
Tel Aviv	15/59	8/48	17/62	10/50	19/66	10/50
Tiberias	12/54	4/39	14/57	6/43	13/55	7/44

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Thursday	High	Low
Amsterdam	9/48	7/44	9/48	4/39	9/48	4/39
Berlin	8/46	4/39	8/46	5/41	9/48	4/39
Brussels	10/50	8/48	10/50	10/50	10/50	10/50
Chicago	7/44	13/46	8/46	13/46	8/46	13/46
Frankfurt	8/46	3/37	8/46	3/37	8/46	3/37
Hong Kong	17/70	16/61	19/66	14/57	19/66	14/57
Johannesburg	25/84	20/68	28/82	18/64	25/84	20/68
London	12/53	6/43	9/48	2/35	12/53	6/43
Los Angeles	17/62	12/53	20/68	7/44	17/62	12/53
Madrid	9/48	23/56	7/44	13/46	9/48	23/56
Mexico City	22/71	6/43	21/70	8/46	22/71	6/43
Moscow	4/39	13/46	2/35	7/44	4/39	13/46
New York	32/7	5/41	4/39	10/50	32/7	5/41
Paris	8/46	6/43	8/46	2/35	8/46	6/43
Prague	7/44	13/46	7/44	2/35	7/44	13/46
Rio de Janeiro	32/7	25/78	32/7	25/78	32/7	25/78
Rome	13/55	4/39	13/55	6/43	13/55	4/39
Sydney	24/75	21/70	27/82	20/68	24/75	21/70
Tokyo	17/62	6/43	9/48	13/46	17/62	6/43
Toronto	22/71	32/7	7/44	32/7	22/71	32/7
Vienna	9/48	5/41	9/48	3/37	9/48	5/41
Washington	7/44	32/7	8/46	32/7	7/44	32/7
Zurich	7/44	13/46	7/44	32/7	7/44	13/46

MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
Jan 24	Jan 31	Feb 8	Feb 16

Weather (N): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, f-fog, s-snow, ice.

ISRAEL: A few more showers across the north today; partly to mostly sunny south; rather cool nationwide. Highs 8-20. Lows 0-10.

Eilat: 19/66

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

City	Today	High	Low
Anchorage	-17/-25	-17	-25
Fairbanks	-26/-41	-26	-41
Vancouver	7/1	7	1
Seattle	9/4	9	4
San Francisco	13/7	13	7
Los Angeles	17/12	17	12
San Jose	6/2	6	2
Denver	-10/3	-10	3
Dallas	22/12	22	12
Atlanta	21/8	21	8
Houston	28/16	28	16
Orlando	28/13	28	13
Miami	28/19	28	19
Chicago	7/1	7	1
Toronto	2/3	2	3
Montreal	4/13	4	13
Washington	12/5	12	5
New York City	9/2	9	2

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

City	Today	High	Low
Oslo	4/1	4	1
Copenhagen	8/7	8	7
Moscow	-3/5	-3	5
Amsterdam	9/7	9	7
London	12/5	12	5
Berlin	8/4	8	4
Warsaw	7/3	7	3
Minsk	3/0	3	0
Vienna	5/1	5	1
Paris	8/6	8	6
Budapest	7/2	7	2
Rome	13/4	13	4
Madrid	9/2	9	2
Athens	13/6	13	6
Antalya	14/3	14	3
Istanbul	6/0	6	0
Nicosia	12/4	12	4

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

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Weekend

Injury, controversy surround Korda

MELBOURNE (AP) — He was on a losing streak, his ankle hurt, criticism over his drug case swirled around him, and his opponent accused him of faking injury.

Thus went Petr Korda's return to the Australian Open, where last year, at age 30, the Czech player finally won his first grand slam title and captured the fans' affections with his exuberant scissor-kicks and cartwheels.

The spectator support was still there yesterday as Korda struggled to a 6-3, 6-7 (1-7), 6-4, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2 first-round victory over 83rd-ranked Galo Blanco of Spain.

Meanwhile, 37th-ranked Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany ousted fourth seed Carlos Moya, the French Open champion, 6-7 (7-9), 6-4, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, further depleting the top of the ranks. No. 1 Pete Sampras is staying home, and No. 2 Marcelo Rios dropped out Monday with a back injury.

In a night match, 17-year-old Australian Lleyton Hewitt crushed 13th seed Cedric Pioline of France, the 1997 US Open runner-up, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 in one hour, 43 minutes. A year earlier, Hewitt had become the lowest-ranked (then 550th) singles winner in ATP Tour history by winning a title in his hometown of Adelaide.

Courier blasts doping cheats, Page 18

Despite being defending champion, Korda was not invited to start out on Center Court. A capacity crowd of 6,000 watched him on Court One.

Korda shrugged off all but the left ankle injury — "swollen, and it hurts" — and said yesterday's victory would help him a lot.

He rose to No. 2 in the rankings after last year's Australian Open but then slid into problems including a positive test for steroids after Wimbledon and a 2-8 record in tournament matches over the year's last 4 1/2 months. He now is ranked 20th.

"Right now I won a match, which really counts for me a lot. And hopefully my performance is going to go to another high level, but I am only going to try as best I can to defend my title," Korda said.

He hurt his ankle while leading 4-3 in the third set. The trainer told him it would be really painful, he said, and he replied: "I'll be on court until the last ball."



ACE LADY — Anna Kournikova serves during her first-round match against Jill Craybas of the U.S. Kournikova won 7-6, 7-5.

my title," Korda said.

He hurt his ankle while leading 4-3 in the third set. The trainer told him it would be really painful, he said, and he replied: "I'll be on court until the last ball."

Blanco, however, refused to shake his hand at the end, and later called Korda a liar who called for the trainer only to gain time to rest.

"If someone asks for the trainer ... and then runs like Korda did ... it's almost impossible," Blanco said through an interpreter.

Meanwhile, he said, his own week-old abdominal injury flared up when he was leading 4-1 in the fourth set, "so I couldn't serve very

well, and that was the key point of the match."

Korda said he never had encountered such a match-end snub before. As for being left off Center Court, "it's life," he said. "You can't ask to play on the show court if your ranking is 21. ... As my father told me, it doesn't matter, you can play on the potato field with triangular balls, but you have to play tennis."

In the absence of Sampras and Rios, fifth-seed Andre Agassi justified his place as one of the favorites by trouncing Hernan Gumeni of Argentina 6-0, 6-3, 6-0.

No. 8 Greg Rusedski defeated Australian Scott Draper 7-6 (7-3), 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), No. 10 Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, and No. 15 Todd Martin rebounded for a 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 victory over Argentina's Fernando Meligeni.

Czech player Martin Damm ousted No. 12 Albert Costa of Spain 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, and Dutchman Sjeng Schalken eliminated former No. 1 Thomas Muster of Austria, now unseeded, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's matches

Two-time defending champion Martina Hingis, seeded second, needed just 46 minutes to beat American Lilia Osterloh.

Later, two former No. 1's and four-time Australian Open winners were even faster. Sixth seed Monica Seles, who never has lost a match in Australia, beat Slovakian qualifier Tina Krizan 6-1, 6-0 in 41 minutes.

Tenth seed Steffi Graf beat Argentina's Paola Suarez 6-0, 6-3 in 40 minutes.

Seles won the title here in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1996. Graf won it in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1994.

No. 4 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario beat South African Marianne de Swardt 6-2, 6-2 and No. 7 Mary Pierce ousted Australian Cindy Watson 6-2, 6-1.

No. 12 Anna Kournikova, edged American qualifier Jill Craybas 7-6 (7-1), 7-5 despite 23 double faults. No. 16 Amanda Coetzer also had to struggle, winning the last three games for a 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 victory over Czech player Sandra Kleinova.

No. 14 Sandrine Testud beat American Tara Snyder 6-3, 6-2, and Serena Williams won 6-2, 6-3 over Romania's Raluca Sandu.

Settlement will take another day

Moves pending: Pippen to Rockets, Sprewell to Knicks

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA lockout will last at least another day longer, meaning the upcoming trades of Scottie Pippen and Latrell Sprewell — along with all other league business — will be on hold until today at the earliest.

The lack of a written agreement didn't keep teams from pulling off deals.

The Chicago Bulls agreed to a sign-and-trade deal sending Pippen to the Houston Rockets for Roy Rogers and a second-round draft pick, and the New York Knicks were expected to Golden State, numerous league sources said.

Also, top free agent Antonio McDyess narrowed his choices to Denver and Phoenix.

A number of other deals were being discussed, including:

• Minnesota, Toronto and Denver reaching agreement on a three-way trade sending Chauncey Billups to the Nuggets, Dean Garrett and Bobby Jackson to the Timberwolves and Micheal Williams and two No. 1 picks to the Raptors.

• The Los Angeles Lakers sending forward Tony Battie to the Boston Celtics for center Travis Knight.

• The Bulls signing and trading Steve Kerr to the San Antonio Spurs.

All of those deals cannot be finalized until lawyers representing the league and the union finish putting the lockout settlement into writing.

The biggest disagreement between the sides concerns the new average salary exception, which allows teams already over the salary cap to sign an extra free agent. The union wants the exception to be used for six-year contracts; the league wants it limited to three-year deals.

The Bulls will sign Pippen to a deal worth \$67.2 million for five years before trading him, and get forward Roy Rogers and a second-round draft pick in

return, said league sources.

Although the salaries for Pippen and Rogers do not match, the deal is allowable under NBA rules because Houston will have enough salary cap room to fit in Pippen's contract. His salary for this season will be \$10.6m.

Pippen, a six-time champion with the Bulls, talked to the Rockets about signing with them as a free agent. It was not immediately clear why he agreed to a sign-and-trade deal, but other teams also were discussing similar deals involving Pippen with Bulls general manager Jerry Krause.

The acquisition of Pippen should clear the way for Charles Barkley to re-sign with Houston for the \$1m minimum, giving the Rockets a formidable front line of Barkley, Pippen and Hakeem Olajuwon, and allowing

Pippen's farewell, Page 17

Barkley to keep his Larry Bird rights for another year.

The Knicks apparently won the Sprewell sweepstakes after Golden State Warriors general manager Garry St. Jean told all the interested teams to make their best offers by Monday evening.

Sprewell, a three-time All-Star, drew the longest non drug-related suspension in league history last season for choking his coach, P.J. Carlesimo.

It was not immediately clear who the Knicks would send to the Warriors. New York was believed to be offering forward Chris Mills and guard Chris Childs, with Golden State general manager Garry St. Jean asking for John Starks.

Among other previously undisclosed deals in the works: • Clippers free agent forward Loy Vaught was close to accepting a five-year offer from Detroit for about \$23m.

• Hornets center Vlade Divac was due back from Europe yesterday to decide between competing offers from Sacramento, the Clippers and other teams.

• Celtics center Popeye Jones was expected to re-sign with Boston for \$8m over three years. • Wizards forward Harvey Grant was headed to Philadelphia for two years.

Did jars of caviar help England win 1966 World Cup?

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Two jars of Russian caviar may have helped England win the 1966 World Cup Final.

That is the intriguing thought posed in reminiscences by former Soviet World Cup referee Nikolai Latyshev, who has revealed that the Soviet linesman who awarded Geoff Hurst's controversial third goal in the 4-2 final victory over Germany may have used such a gift to secure his moment of Wembley glory.

It was Tofik Bakhranov, from the now independent Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, who convinced Swiss referee Gottfried Dienst that Hurst's extra-time strike, which crashed down off the crossbar, had crossed the goal line before bouncing out.

The arguments have raged ever since and followed Bakhranov, who died in 1993, and Dienst, who died last June, to their graves.

But Latyshev's recollections, in an interview with Reuters this week, reveal that Bakhranov might never

even have been on the line that July day, but for the famed caviar.

"He wanted very much to officiate in a World Cup final and came to me for help," said Latyshev, who had refereed the 1962 final in Chile when Brazil beat Czechoslovakia and was on the referee selection panel for the 1966 tournament in England.

"As we were from the same country, I didn't think I could lobby for him. So I told him to ask someone else," Latyshev said of Bakhranov's efforts to win friends on the selection panel.

"There was a man from Malaysia on the committee and Bakhranov went to him," the former referee said.

"As far as I remember, two jars of Russian caviar did the trick." Caviar is a specialty of Azerbaijan and Bakhranov made it a habit to carry a few enormously expensive little jars of the delicacy whenever he travelled abroad.

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